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This Week's Line Up

goal! Weekly

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WA & SA CUP WINNERS



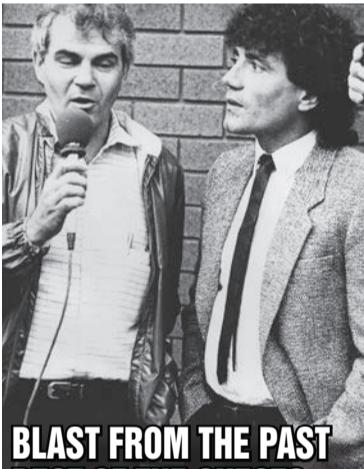
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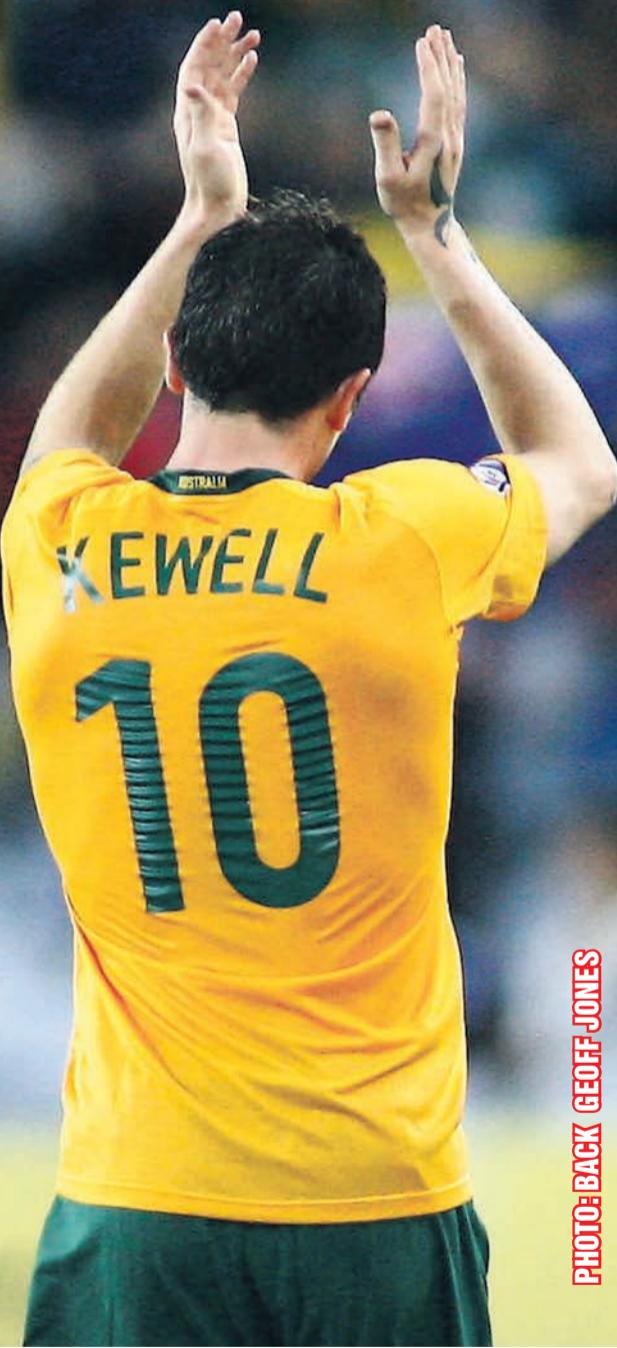
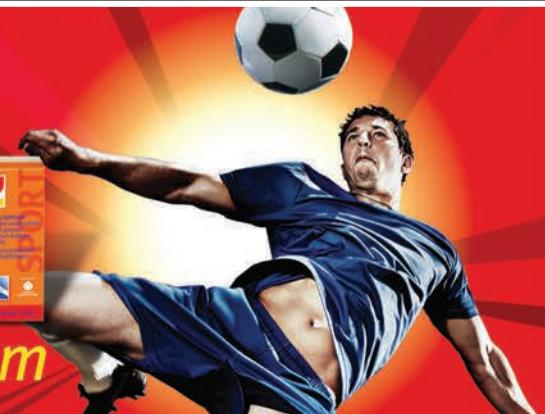


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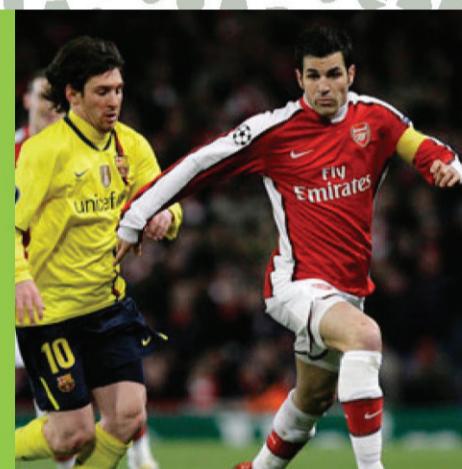
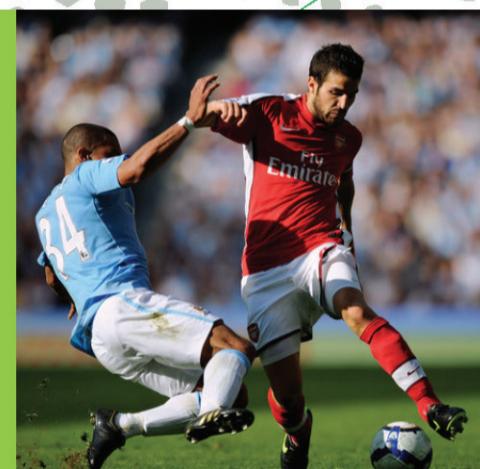
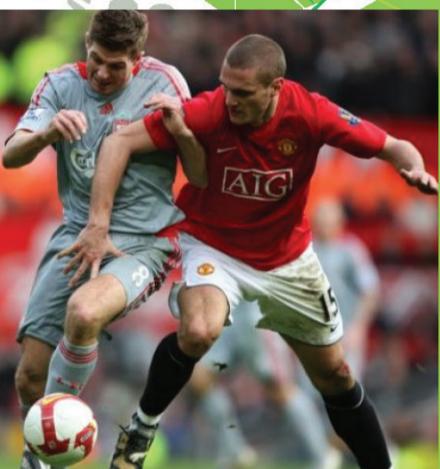
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Monday 22nd August 2011

Young Socceroos Announced

Young Socceroos Head Coach Jan Versleijen named his 18-player squad for the SBS Cup which will be played in Shizuoka, Japan later this week (18-21 August).

Gold Coast United midfielder Jake Barker-Daish was a member of the recent Qantas Young Socceroos squad that competed at the FIFA U-20 World Cup earlier this month and Connor Chapman, Yianni Perkatis, Corey Brown, Anthony Proia, Jesse Makarounos & Luke Remington were members of the Qantas Joeys squad that were at the FIFA U-17 World Cup Mexico 2011. This will be the first outing for this group of players looking to qualify for the FIFA U-20 World Cup Turkey 2013 and Versleijen knows playing matches against quality opposition is an extremely important part of that process.

"This is the start of our new campaign and our first official time together for the next group of Qantas Young Socceroos," said Versleijen. "We are missing a number of players for a variety of reasons, for example resting Mustafa Amini and Terry Antonis after the World Cup, but unfortunately many others are injured at this time."

"The positive that we can take out of this is that we will get to have a look at a few new players that may not normally be selected at this time as well as some of the players that went to the Under 17 World Cup in Mexico."

"With our AFC U-19 Championship qualifiers scheduled for later this year, this tournament is a good place to start our preparations," concluded Versleijen.

The Qantas Young Socceroos will face Shizuoka on Thursday afternoon at the Fujieda Sports Park Soccer Field, followed by Japan on Sunday evening at the Kusunagi Stadium and will play their final match of the SBS Cup against Mexico on Sunday evening at the Stadium Ecopa.

The AFC U-19 Championship qualifiers will be held from 31 October-8 November, 2010, with the venue to be announced soon.

The Young Socceroos have been drawn in Group G of the competition along with China P.R., Indonesia, Singapore and Macau.

The Squad

Jake BARKER-DAISH
Gold Coast United
Kwabena BOAHENE AIS
Joshua BRILLANTE Gold Coast Utd
Corey BROWN Brisbane Roar
Connor CHAPMAN AIS
Joshua Da SILVA Sutherland Sharks
Jason GERIA Brisbane Roar
Andrew HOOLE
Broadmeadow Magic
Aaron LENNOX (gk) QPR (ENG)
Jesse MAKAROUNAS Perth Glory
Nicholas MUNRO
(gk) Adelaide Galaxy
Luke O'DEA Melbourne Victory
Yianni PERKATIS AIS
Aaron PETERSON Sydney United
Anthony PROIA AIS
Alistair QUINN Brisbane Roar
Luke REMINGTON
Newcastle Utd Jets
Elliott RONTO Gold Coast United

Harry Kewell signs for Victory



Give the man a hand: Harry Kewell finally signs on the dotted line for Victory.

Photo: GEOFF JONES

Australian football supporters will see Harry Kewell in the Hyundai A-League this season playing for Melbourne Victory.

After months of speculation Harry Kewell and Melbourne Victory announced on Saturday that an unconditional agreement has now been reached.

Harry Kewell is arguably the most famous footballer Australia has produced with a successful career to date in the English Premiership with both Leeds United and Liverpool and more recently in Europe with Galatasaray. Harry is also regarded as the talisman of the Qantas Socceroos, having captained the side, also clocking up 54 caps for his country and scoring 16 goals.

Anthony Di Pietro, Melbourne Victory's Chairman is delighted by the news, "Melbourne Victory, as an ambitious club, wishes to bring success and the highest level of talent to the club for our supporters.

"We are delighted to announce that Harry has chosen to play for our club.

"Harry is an Australian sporting icon and will bring not only incredible talent to Melbourne Victory but will attract more fans to football and boost greater interest and participation in the sport in Australia."

"Our discussions with Harry have been progressing for some time and we are delighted to have completed what is the most significant signing in Australian football and Hyundai A-League history," Di Pietro added.

Harry Kewell said, "I am delighted to be joining Melbourne Victory. It is a great club whose

record in the A-League speaks for itself. I am looking forward to playing in front of the Victory supporters with my new team mates.

"I am proud to be Australian and want to give something back to the game there. It has always been my ambition to play in my home country and I am very pleased to have that opportunity by playing for Melbourne Victory."

The Football Federation Australia (FFA) hailed Melbourne Victory's announcement that Harry Kewell has signed with the club to play in the Hyundai A-League.

"This is a red-letter day for the Hyundai A-League and Australian football," said FFA CEO Ben Buckley.

"The signing of Harry Kewell tells the story of ambition, credibility and growth for the game in

Australia.

"Harry is rightly acclaimed as Australia's most gifted footballer with a celebrated record of achievement. His homecoming will be hugely popular.

"On behalf of FFA, I congratulate the Melbourne Victory and wish Harry Kewell every success in this exciting phase of his career."

Sydney FC CEO Dirk Melton also welcomed the news that Harry Kewell was returning to Australia in what is a massive boost for the Hyundai A-League.

"This is very exciting news for the Hyundai A-League and Melbourne Victory should be congratulated," Mr Melton said.

"We have been in open discussions with Harry Kewell and his management over the last seven weeks. The discussions with Harry

were part of developing a list management process that enables us to focus on a number of opportunities at any point in time while completing our playing roster.

"Sydney FC is in an exciting period of change and one of the primary objectives for the Club in the current phase of our evolution is to bring players to our organisation that will significantly assist us build a solid foundation for the future.

"We need players that can help us connect to all key stakeholders ranging from fans and members, the broader community, corporate partners and the media.

"It is about being patient and finding the right players at the right time and I'm sure Harry will be that player for Melbourne Victory.

Street Socceroos Prepare for Paris

Australia's Homeless World Cup campaign kicks off in Paris this weekend, with the announcement of the national team, the Street Socceroos.

Represented by eight players from The Big Issue's Community Street Soccer Program, the team will join 64 teams from 53 countries at the Paris 2011 Homeless World Cup from August 21-28.

Now in its ninth year, the annual tournament uses football to raise awareness of homelessness and help participants overcome challenges in their lives.

"The Homeless World Cup is not only a great sporting event but an opportunity to break down stereotypes towards homeless and marginalised people, and start working together to find new solutions to homelessness," The Big Issue CEO Steven Persson said.

The Australian team was selected from hundreds of homeless and marginalised people involved in The Big Issue's Community Street Soccer Program. Through weekly training sessions, the grassroots program helps reconnect participants with the community and works to rebuild their confidence and self-esteem.

Announcing the team in Sydney, Attorney-General Robert McClellan

land, Representing Minister for Social Housing and Homelessness and Minister for Sport Mark Arbib, said the federally-funded program helped create change for some of Australia's most vulnerable people.

"We are proud to support this program and to see the enormous difference it is making to the lives of participants," Mr McClelland said.

"Street Soccer empowers players by promoting participation, inclusiveness and team spirit. The Homeless World Cup players have all made a commitment to the program week-in, week-out and now have the chance to stand on a world stage – a truly once-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

Football Federation Australia CEO Ben Buckley said: "We support football across all levels of the community from elite to grassroots and The Big Issue's program is a great example of how this sport can change lives."

The squad:

Chris Paffard Age: 27 Melb
Mustafa Housain Age: 19 Melb
Cindy Chatters Age: 32 Hobart
Roy John Age: 48 Sydney
Nathan Whalen Age: 22 W'gong
Yussuf Mohamed Age: 20 ACT
Reece Lopez Age: 23 Brisbane
Peter Age: 18 City: Melbourne

Matildas squad for London Olympic Qualifiers

Westfield Matildas Head Coach Tom Sermanni announced his 20-player squad who will depart for China to compete for a place at the 2012 London Olympic Games.

Returning to the squad are experienced pair Sarah Walsh and Thea Slatyer who have both battled back from injuries that kept them out of the FIFA Women's World Cup in Germany.

Aivi Luik also returns after narrowly missing out on a spot on the plane to Germany and comes in for injured Brisbane Roar team mate Lauren Colthorpe who has a knee injury.

Ellyse Perry, Leena Khamis and Casey Dumont also missed selection in the reduced 20-player squad.

"Again it has been a difficult decision in selecting the squad," said Sermanni.

"We have a large and talented squad and when you can only select 20 players for an 11 day, five match tournament you need to be very balanced in the selection process."

"The flexibility of the playing

group given the number of games we have to play over a very short period is key.

Australia's road to the Olympics begins next month in Jinan, China, in a gruelling six team, 11 day round robin tournament with the top two teams progressing to the 2012 London Olympic Games.

The Westfield Matildas play AFC Women's Asian Cup runners-up DPR Korea in their opening match on September 1 at the Jinan Olympic Sports Centre.

The Squad: Teigen Allen Sydney; Laura Alaway Roar; Melissa Barbieri Victory; Tameka Butt Roar; Kim Carroll Roar; Lisa De Vanna Roar/magicJack; Caitlin Foord Sydney; Heather Garriock Sydney FC/LdB Malmo; Elise Kellond-Knight Roar; Samantha Kerr Glory; Aivi Luik Roar; Collette McCallum Glory; Clare Polkinghorne Roar; Sally Shipard Canberra; Kyah Simon Sydney; Thea Slatyer Uncontracted; Servet Uzunlar Sydney; Emily van Egmond Canberra; Sarah Walsh Sydney; Lydia Williams Canberra.

Short Passes

UNITED'S LATEST SIGNING TOUCHES DOWN ON THE GOLD COAST

TOWERING defender Ante Rozic has become Miron Bleiberg's latest signing and arrived on the Gold Coast to meet his new teammates for the first time.

The United Head Coach bolstered his defensive stocks for the upcoming season by plucking the 25-year-old, 190cm centre-back from top division Polish outfit, Arka Gdynia.

The son of NSL legend and former Yugoslavia international Vedran Rozic, Bankstown-born Ante holds an Australian passport so will not occupy one of United's five permitted visa places on the senior roster. His move to United will see him play professionally on Australian soil for the first time after he returned to Europe with his family as a youngster. Rozic then spent his formative football years with Croatian club Hajduk Split, but was on loan to a string of clubs before securing moves to HNK Trogir and French Second Division side CS Sedan Ardennes, prior to his shift to Poland.

For Gold Coast Head Coach Miron Bleiberg, the signing of Rozic brings an end a long search for a dominant centre-half to fill the shoes of the departed Dino Djulbic.

ROAR SIGN BAHRAINI INTERNATIONAL

Brisbane Roar Football Club has signed Bahraini international defender Sayed Mohamed Adnan to a one-year deal.

The 28-year-old has been capped 79 times by Bahrain, scoring 13 goals in the process, and was runner-up for the 2009 Asian Player of the Year award.

His goal-scoring record at club level is even more impressive, having scored 37 times in 104 matches for Qatari club Al-Khor.

Standing at 189cm, Adnan promises to add an imposing figure in the heart of the Brisbane Roar defence while posing a threat at the other end of the field from set-piece situations.

Adnan has trained with the squad for nearly a month, giving himself and the coaching staff plenty of time to come to the decision Brisbane Roar was the right fit for all concerned.

BESART BERISHA BRISBANE BOUND

Brisbane Roar's playing stocks have received a second boost with the signing of Albanian international striker Besart Berisha to a one-year contract.

The 26-year-old has signed from German club Arminia Bielefeld after being scouted by Brisbane Roar assistant coach Rado Vidic.

Vidic was impressed by Berisha's ability when he was in Germany to watch his son, Socceroo midfielder Dario Vidic, play for the then German second division club.

When Berisha became available Brisbane Roar Head Coach Ange Postecoglou had no hesitation in contacting the striker to see if he was interested in moving to Australia.

OLYROOS TO PLAY IN ADELAIDE

Football Federation Australia (FFA), the South Australian Government and Football Federation South Australia (FFSA) announced that the Qantas Australian Under 23's will play their first 2012 London Olympic Games Asian Qualifier against the United Arab Emirates (UAE) at Hindmarsh Stadium in Adelaide on Wednesday 21 September (kick-off 7:00pm).

2012 London Olympic Games Asian Qualifier – Third Round
Australian Under 23's v UAE
Hindmarsh Stadium, Adelaide
Wednesday, 21 September 2011
Kick-off: 7:00pm ACST (7:30pm AEST)

Jets Set

After a 1-0 result against Melbourne Heart at Latrobe Stadium on Friday night, the Jets have a quick turnaround to take on Lake Macquarie at Speers Point on Wednesday evening.

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ENGLAND EPL



	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games
1 Aston Villa	2	1	1	0	3	1	+2	4	WD
2 Liverpool	2	1	1	0	3	1	+2	4	WD
3 Chelsea	2	1	1	0	2	1	+1	4	WD
4 Newcastle United	2	1	1	0	1	0	+1	4	WD
5 Bolton Wanderers	1	1	0	0	4	0	+4	3	W
6 Manchester City	1	1	0	0	4	0	+4	3	W
7 Manchester United	1	1	0	0	2	1	+1	3	W
8 Wolves	1	1	0	0	2	1	+1	3	W
9 Queens Park Rangers	2	1	0	1	1	4	-3	3	WL
10 Wigan Athletic	2	0	2	0	1	1	+0	2	DD
11 Norwich City	1	0	1	0	1	1	+0	1	D
12 Fulham	1	0	1	0	0	0	+0	1	D
13 Stoke City	1	0	1	0	0	0	+0	1	D
14 Sunderland	2	0	1	1	1	2	-1	1	LD
15 Arsenal	2	0	1	1	0	2	-2	1	LD
16 Swans City	2	0	1	1	0	4	-4	1	DL
17 Tottenham Hotspur	0	0	0	0	0	0	+0	0	
18 Everton	1	0	0	1	0	1	-1	0	L
19 West Bromwich Albion	2	0	0	2	2	4	-2	0	LL
20 Blackburn Rovers	2	0	0	2	2	5	-3	0	LL

SPAIN La Liga



	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games
1 At Bilbao	0	0	0	0	0	0	+0	0	
2 At Madrid	0	0	0	0	0	0	+0	0	
3 Barcelona	0	0	0	0	0	0	+0	0	
4 Espanyol	0	0	0	0	0	0	+0	0	
5 Getafe	0	0	0	0	0	0	+0	0	
6 Granada	0	0	0	0	0	0	+0	0	
7 Levante	0	0	0	0	0	0	+0	0	
8 Mallorca	0	0	0	0	0	0	+0	0	
9 Málaga	0	0	0	0	0	0	+0	0	
10 Osasuna	0	0	0	0	0	0	+0	0	
11 R Santander	0	0	0	0	0	0	+0	0	
12 R Vallecano	0	0	0	0	0	0	+0	0	
13 Real Betis	0	0	0	0	0	0	+0	0	
14 Real Madrid	0	0	0	0	0	0	+0	0	
15 R Sociedad	0	0	0	0	0	0	+0	0	
16 R Zaragoza	0	0	0	0	0	0	+0	0	
17 Sevilla	0	0	0	0	0	0	+0	0	
18 Sport Gijón	0	0	0	0	0	0	+0	0	
19 Valencia	0	0	0	0	0	0	+0	0	
20 Villarreal	0	0	0	0	0	0	+0	0	

FRANCE League 1



	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games
1 Toulouse	3	2	1	0	5	1	+4	7	DWW
2 Montpellier	2	2	0	0	4	1	+3	6	WW
3 Saint-Étienne	2	2	0	0	3	1	+2	6	WW
4 Caen	3	2	0	1	4	3	+1	6	LWW
5 Olympique Lyon	3	1	2	0	5	3	+2	5	DDW
6 Evian TG	3	1	2	0	4	3	+1	5	DWD
7 Stade Rennes	2	1	1	0	6	2	+4	4	DW
8 Lille	3	1	1	1	3	3	+0	4	WLD
9 Lorient	3	1	1	2	3	3	-1	4	LDW
10 Brest	3	0	3	0	3	3	+0	3	DDD
11 Dijon	3	1	0	2	3	7	-4	3	WLL
12 Olympique Mar	2	0	2	0	4	4	+0	2	DD
13 Bordeaux	3	0	2	1	3	4	-1	2	DDL
14 Auxerre	3	0	2	1	4	6	-2	2	DDL
15 Ajaccio	3	0	2	1	2	4	-2	2	DDL
16 Sochaux	2	0	1	1	3	4	-1	1	LD
17 Nancy	2	0	1	1	1	2	-1	1	DL
18 PSG	2	0	1	1	0	1	-1	1	DL
19 Valenciennes	2	0	1	1	0	1	-1	1	DL
20 Nice	3	0	1	2	2	5	-3	1	DDL

GERMANY Bundesliga



	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games
1 Borussia M'glia...	3	2	1	0	6	2	+4	7	WDW
2 Bayern München	3	2	0	1	6	1	+5	6	WWL
3 Werder Bremen	3	2	0	1	7	4	+3	6	WLW
4 Borussia Dortmund	3	2	0	1	5	2	+3	6	WLW
5 Mainz 05	2	2	0	0	4	1	+3	6	WW
6 Hannover 96	2	2	0	0	4	2	+2	6	WW
7 Hoffenheim	3	2	0	1	4	2	+2	6	WWL
8 Bayer Leverkusen	3	2	0	1	2	2	+0	6	WWL
9 Stuttgart	3	1	1	1	4	2	+2	4	LDW
10 Schalke 04	2	1	0	1	5	4	+1	3	WL
11 Wolfsburg	3	1	0	2	4	5	-1	3	LLW
12 Nürnberg	3	1	0	2	2	4	-2	3	LLW
13 Augsburg	3	0	2	1	3	5	-2	2	DDL
14 Kaiserslautern	3	0	2	1	2	4	-2	2	DDL
15 Hertha BSC	2	0	1	1	2	3	-1	1	DL
16 Freiburg	3	0	1	2	6	9	-3	1	LLD
17 Hamburger SV	3	0	1	2	3	10	-7	1	LLD
18 Köln	3	0	1	2	2	9	-7	1	DDL

THE CHAMPIONSHIP



	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts	Last5games
1 Southampton	4	4	0	0	10	3	+7	12	WWWW
2 Derby County	4	4	0	0	7	1	+6	12	WWWW
3 Brighton & Hove	4	3	1	0	8	4	+4	10	DWWWW
4 Crystal Palace	4	3	0	1	6	3	+3	9	WWWL
5 Peterborough Utd	4	2	1	1	12	6	+6	7	WDLW
6 Middlesbrough	3	2	1	0	6	3	+3	7	WWD
7 Cardiff City	4	2	1	1	6	5	+1	7	DWW
8 Blackpool	4	2	1	1	5	4	+1	7	DWW
9 West Ham United	3	2	0	1	5	1	+4	6	WWL
10 Millwall	4	1	2	1	6	5	+1	5	LDWD
11 Portsmouth	4	1	2	1	3	3	+0	5	DWLW
12 Nottingham Forest	4	1	2	1	3	4	-1	5	DWLW
13 Reading	4	1	1	2	5	5	+0	4	LLWD
14 Leicester City	4	1	1	2	4	6	-2	4	DLLW
15 Barnsley	4	1	1	2	3	5	-2	4	DLL
16 Bristol City	4	1	1	2	3	7	-4	4	DWL
17 Leeds United	3</td								

Problems mount for Arsenal as Lady Luck fails to fire

Euro Wrap



Alex Luttrell

EPL

The Barclays Premier League played host to some exciting fixtures over the weekend, filled with rivalry, upsets and comebacks.

The northern England derby between Sunderland and Newcastle was played out at the Stadium of Light and resulted in a 1-0 win to the visitors. A solitary goal from Ryan Taylor on 62 minutes was enough for the visitors to take their first derby win this season.

Liverpool travelled to Emirates Stadium to meet with an Arsenal team in crisis. After losing Cesc Fabregas this week and a deal nearing closer with Manchester City for Samir Nasri, times are not promising off field for the Gunners. It looks the same on the field too as the Reds also came away with a 2-0 win, to get Kenny Dalglish's renewed side their first three points of the season.

A freak own goal from Aaron Ramsey was the opener on 78 minutes in an overall low-tempo game. Luis Suarez came off the bench and received a beautifully weighted low cross fellow sub Raul Meireles which he tapped away to seal the win. Elsewhere, QPR travelled to Goodison Park to upset Everton 1-0 thanks to a Tommy Smith wonder goal on the half hour.

mark.

In the later game, Chelsea played host to West Brom at Stamford Bridge in hope of registering their first win of the season. After four minutes it did not look promising after West Brom's Shane Long tucked away a goal early. However, after half time the home side came out firing and two goals on 53 minutes from Nicholas Anelka and Florent Malouda in the 83rd was enough two seal the comeback and their first win of the year.

In the other games Aston Villa defeated Blackburn 3-1 at Villa Park thanks to goals from Gabby Agbonlahor, Emile Heskey and Darren Bent. Swansea got their first point in the Premier League with a 0-0 at home to Wigan.

Bundesliga

In the Bundesliga over the weekend Monchengladbach, Bayern Munich and Werder Bremen stamped their authority on the top three German spots with very comfortable wins.

Monchengladbach hosted strugglers Wolfsburg and came from one goal down to defeat the visitors 4-1 and keep hold of top spot on the table for another 24 hours. A double from Reus on either side of Daems and Bobadilla was enough for the three points.

Bayern Munich, as usual have brought the title challenge to any contenders this season with a 5-0 demolition of Hamburger at home. Goals from five different scorers in Daniel van Buyten, Franck Ribery, Arjen Robben, Mario Gomez and Ivica Olic stamped their authority on the competition.

In an eight goal match of the round Werder Bremen hosted Freiburg, coming out on top at the death with a 5-3 win. In a tug of war match that jumped from Bremen leading three times back to level pecking at 3-3, two goals in the last 5 minutes from Hunt and Wesley sealed the thriller. Other goals from Fritz, Pizarro and Arnautovic capped off a fantastic performance.

In other matches Dortmund kept in touch with the top three with a comfortable 2-0 win over Nurnberg, Bayern Leverkusen overcame Stuttgart 1-0, Hoffenheim defeated Augsburg 2-0 and Kolo and Kaiserslautern saw out a 1-1 draw.

Ligue 1

In a very dull third week of the French Ligue 1 only Dijon and champions Lille saw out wins in a sea of draw. The games have made virtually no change to the table for another 24 hours

Newcomers Dijon hosted Lorient and a Thil goal in the third and one from Jovail in the 88th was enough to seal their first win in the new season.

Lille overcame Caen 2-1 away in the final 20 minutes with goals from Pedretti in the 68th and an 88th minute sealer from Debuchy cancelling out Nivet's 90th minute Caen consolidation goal.

In the other games Toulouse kept top spot in the league for 24 hours with a 1-1 draw with Nice, Bordeaux drew 1-1 with Auxerre, Lyon drew 1-1 away to Stade Brest and Ajaccio drew 1-1 with Evian Thonon Gaillard.



Arsenal's problems increase as Emmanuel Frimpong is sent off in Liverpool's 2-0 win at Emirates Stadium.



Liverpool's Suarez guides the ball into the net after some unselfish play by Meireles.

Oscar inspired Brazil clinch U20 World Cup

By Shaun Dyas

Brazil became FIFA under 20 World Cup champions for the fifth time, overcoming Portugal 3-2 after 120 minutes of gripping football in Bogota, Colombia.

Brazil Midfielder Oscar was the hero, becoming the first player in the history of the tournament to score a hat-trick in the final as he inspired his country to a deserved victory over a gallant Portugal. Portugal went into the match having not conceded a goal for the entire tournament, but it took Brazil only five minutes to change that record.

Oscar took a free kick from 35 yards out that he whipped dangerously into the Portuguese penalty area. The cross took the slightest

of deflections off a Portuguese defender before nestling in the bottom right hand corner of the Portuguese net.

The goal was the first that Portugal keeper Mika had conceded in the tournament. Fortunately for him and his teammates it did not take Portugal long to recover.

Midfielder Alex equalised for Portugal after nine minutes following some superb lead up play from impressive Portugal striker Nelson Oliveira. Oliveira streaked on to a pass from midfield before squaring the ball brilliantly into the path of Alex who tapped into an empty net.

Brazil almost equalised barely a minute later. A crazy goal mouth scramble followed from a misjudged cross. Mika desperately pawed the ball away from the



top corner of his goal with Brazil striker Henrique protesting to the officials in the belief the ball had crossed the line.

This led to a period of dominance for the Brazilians who were unlucky not to retake the lead through Oscar. His free kick from the edge of the penalty area in the

29th minute seemed destined to find the roof of the net until it was brilliantly cleared off the line by the Portuguese defence.

The 36,000 fans inside the stadium then witnessed the game begin to settle down as both teams continued to probe in the lead up to half-time with neither creating

any definite chances.

The game came back to life in the most unexpected of ways in the 59th minute. Oliveira chased down a pass that had pushed him wide to the edge of the penalty area and only 3 metres from the by-line. More in hope than anything he unleashed a left foot drive that squirmed under the body of Brazilian keeper Gabriel and into the bottom corner of the goal giving the Portuguese a 2-1 lead.

Brazil was not to be denied and their efforts were to be rewarded with an equaliser in the 78th minute. Impressive substitute Dudu used a silky piece of skill to turn past his defender before delivering a cross that Mika could only parry. The deflection went straight into the path of Oscar who side footed a volley into the unguarded

net from six yards. The game then went to extra time and it was just starting to look as if both sides were beginning to settle for penalties. Oscar had other ideas. In the 111th minute, he took on the Portuguese defence and attempted to deliver a pinpoint cross to the far post for the waiting strikers. Luckily for him the ball floated helplessly past the despairing Mika and into the net.

Brazil should have extended their lead through Henrique in the dying stages of extra time but he shot weakly straight at Mika with the goal gaping after some more quality lead up play from Dudu. After fulltime all that was left was for Brazil to raise the trophy, confirming their status as Under 20 World cup champions for a fifth time.

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It's not all doom and gloom...

By Luke Gillman

Over the last 18 months the Australian football media has regularly pedaled doom and gloom over the state of the game in our nation. The television and newspapers have been awash with our unlucky showing at the 2010 World Cup, an embarrassing result for the World Cup 2022 bid ultimately won by Qatar, tales of violent fans and the ultimate collapse of North Queensland Fury just before the last A-League Grand Final.

Those flicking through the sports sections of the dailies could be forgiven for thinking soccer in this country is in free fall, terminally declining as the goodwill generated at Germany 2006 finally dissipated. However, that would be to ignore some significant positives that have sprouted in the Australian game over the last year.

Firstly, the national team has recovered from the blows of a difficult World Cup campaign in sensational style. Although the Socceroos lost the Asian Cup final, they played some great football along the way, earning the respect of our Asian neighbours with a string of fantastic disciplined performances. More recently the national team gained some measure of revenge over Germany

in the friendly win on March 30 in Monchengladbach which Holger Osieck described as "a great performance and... a reason to be proud".

Secondly, we witnessed the flowering of two local talents on the world stage. Sasa Ognenovski was named 2010's Asian Footballer of the Year as he captained Seongnam Ilhwa Chunma to victory in the Asian Champions League, surely one of the best individual achievements by an Australian player in recent memory. He also proved the critics wrong as part of a solid centre-back pairing with Lucas Neill at the Asian Cup which conceded only two goals in the whole tournament.

Robbie Kruse too was a revelation, scoring in the Asian Cup semi-final against Uzbekistan three weeks after making his international debut in a performance that prompted Tim Cahill to call Kruse "a fantastic talent". He had a solid season with Victory in 2010-11, scoring 11 goals and his performances both domestically and internationally have led to him signing for German outfit Fortuna Dusseldorf. Kruse will no doubt continue his development in Europe as he flies the flag for Aussies overseas.

Back at Kruse's old club Brisbane Roar an exceptional season played itself out. Not only did the club win its first championship in spectacu-

larly nailbiting fashion, but they did so by playing flowing continental-style football the likes of which the A-League had never seen. The gaffer Ange Postecoglou picked up the Manager of the Year award too as he oversaw his team set a record for the longest unbeaten streak in Australian football history - 28 matches. Such a successful season should see plenty of converts return to Suncorp Stadium in 2011-12 as the Roar aim for back-to-back championships.

Another boon for Australian football in the last year was the arrival of Melbourne Heart in the A-League. Melbourne Victory have had the most consistent support in the short history of the league, so a second club in the city seemed a good way to whet an obvious appetite for the game. The fledgling Heart may not have made the finals in its inaugural season, but they won over plenty of fans with both their performance in the first real intra-city derby and a playing roster which included Socceroo greats John Aloisi and Josip Skoko. Brazilian import Alex Terra's bicycle kick goal against Perth Glory in January also lit up the league, and if he can regain his form for the Heart, they could have a successful year in both their football on the park and their ability to keep the fans coming through the gates.

One final positive of the last 12



Not long now! Summer nights and hot action awaits....

months has been talk of the proposed FFA Cup, an FA Cup-style knockout competition which A-League head Lyall Gorman has indicated will commence in 2012. Initial discussions suggest the competition will engage A-League clubs, former NSL powerhouses like South Melbourne and Marconi Stallions now playing state league soccer, and lower division clubs throughout the country. The FFA Cup could go a long way to repairing some of the damage done to 'old soccer' since the A-League's inception, as well as giving young local talent a chance to shine in a greater forum. It will also give the

casual soccer fan a chance to see the stars of tomorrow plying their trade before they reach the big leagues.

While the game we love has suffered its setbacks in recent times, the writing on the wall is not all bad. The Socceroos have restored faith with their recent performances, Australian players are continuing to have an impact around the world's leagues, and some interesting initiatives are underway to involve the grass roots of football in the near future. Without the benefit of hindsight, it appears there have been other times where things were looking much worse than today. Only time will tell.

Short Passes

PHOENIX SIGN GOALKEEPER
Wellington Phoenix confirmed the signing of goalkeeper Tony Warner during the week.

The Liverpool-born custodian comes to New Zealand with a wealth of experience under his belt and will provide competition for incumbent Mark Paston.

The 1.93m Warner joined Liverpool as a 16-year-old and spent nine years at the club but never made a first team appearance.

While with Liverpool Warner, 37, had loan spells at Swindon, Glasgow Celtic and Aberdeen before signing for Millwall in 1999 and making 200 first team appearances for the club.

Since leaving Millwall in 2004 Warner has played at Cardiff City and Fulham as well as having loan spells at Leeds United, Norwich City and Barnsley.

Last season he made 25 appearances for Tranmere Rovers.

GLORY TO TAKE ON AL-AHLY

Football West is pleased to confirm that the match between Perth Glory and visiting Dubai team Al-Ahly will be held at nib Stadium on Tuesday 23 August.

Al-Ahly has been in Perth for the past two weeks training and playing local teams and this Perth Glory match will be the culmination of their trip.

nib Stadium gates will open at 7:15pm with the game kicking off at 8:00pm General admission and grandstand tickets will be available at the gates Grandstand tickets: \$25.00 General Admission: \$10.00 Children under 16 will be admitted free.

FRANK MUNRO DEAD AT 63

Former Wolves and Scotland defender Frank Munro has died following a heart attack, the English Premier League club. He was 63.

Munro represented Scotland nine times during his career but was most famous for his nine years at Wolves between 1968 and 1977, where he helped the club win the League Cup in 1974.

Munro, who was also a member of the Wolves team which reached the Uefa Cup final in 1972, died on Tuesday, two days after suffering a heart attack.

Former team-mates Dave Wagstaffe and Phil Parkes were at his hospital bedside during his final hours.

"Frank was the most skilful centre-half in the country and yet he never realised it. He played the game for fun," Wagstaffe was quoted as saying on Wolves official website.

"He was a great team-mate and a great friend and we are all going to miss him tremendously."

Frank will be remembered to Australian fans as having played 17 games for South Melbourne Hellas in the 1978 NSL season before taking on the player-coach position at Victorian State League club Albion Rovers.



Passing of Dave Keddie

This week, former Sydney Hakoah striker, Dave Keddie passed away at the age of 66. During the late 1960's and early 1970's, Keddie starred in a central striking role and regularly partnered, Ray Baartz in the Hakoah frontline.

Keddie was part of the 1970 Socceroos squad which toured Asia, Europe and South America.

The funeral service was attended by a number of Keddie's former Hakoah team-mates including former Socceroos Peter Fuzes, Dennis Yaeger, Ray Baartz, Col Curran, Alan Marnoch and John Watkiss. Robbie Fekete, Terry Smith and Keith Jones were also prominent former team-mates at the Hakoah club who paid their respects.

Brisbane Put Bite On Phoenix



Thomas Broich

Brisbane Roar's fine pre-season form has continued with a comfortable 5-1 win over Wellington Phoenix in Dunedin on Saturday.

Two goals to Thomas Broich and James Meyer and another to the excellent Mitch Nichols rounded out the scoring as the visitors faced their first Hyundai A-League opposition in the pre-season program.

Although Phoenix had a couple of good chances through Paul Ifill early on it was the visitors who notched the first goal though, with Nichols again in the thick of the action.

On the break, the midfielder threaded a perfect ball through to Meyer running wide on the right and the striker calmly slotted past an on-rushing Paston to score with just about the last kick of the half.

On the other side of the break Brisbane doubled the lead, this time Nichols putting his name on the scoresheet.

Substitute Kofi Danning cut the ball back to the edge of the box to Massimo Murdocca and his little through ball was perfectly weighted through ball found Nichols who slotted just inside the post.

Ifill did his best to get the home side back in the contest with some time on the edge of the Roar box, but his shot was blocked by Matt Smith.

Andrew Durante had a chance in the next play, but his flick on from an Ifill cross went wide of the goal.

Broich extended the lead on 57 minutes with a wickedly struck free-kick from the edge of the box after he was brought down by Durante on his way to goal.

Lashing the ball with the outside of his foot, the German gave Paston no chance.

The goal was the cue for Wellington to pile on the pressure looking for a goal of their own with only some desperate defending at the back by Brisbane keeping the home side at bay.

However it was Danning who nearly made it 4-0 when he ran on to a per-

"It's important the players see all the stuff we do at training works and they get some positive feedback."

BRISBANE ROAR 5 (Meyer 46', 92', Nichols 47', Broich 57', 73')
WELLINGTON PHOENIX 1 (Rigters 66')

At Forsyth Barr Stadium, Dunedin

Crowd: 15,037

Wellington Phoenix: 1. Mark PASTON, 2. Manny MUSCAT, 6. Tim BROWN (25. Matthew THURTELL 82'), 7. Leo BERTOS (23. Lucas PANTELIS 77'), 8. Paul IFILL (11. DANIEL 73'), 13. Nick TSATTALIOS (3. Tony LOCHHEAD 65'), 18. Ben SIGMUND, 17. Vince LIA (24. Dant SANCHEZ 46'), 19. Jimmy DOWNEY (26. Corey CHEETLEBURGH 77'), 22. Andrew DURANTE, 27. Billy MEHMET (28. Maceo RIGTERS 46').

Substitutes not used: 9. Chris GREENACRE, 14. Mirjan PAVLOVIC, 20. Tony WARNER (GK). **Yellow cards:** DURANTE, SANCHEZ **Red cards:** Nil

Brisbane Roar: 1. Michael THEOKLITOS, 2. Matt SMITH, 3. Shane STEFANUTTO (12. Matt MUNDY (19. Chris BUSH 85')), 4. Matt JURMAN, 14. Jack HINGERT (5. Ivan FRANJIC 46'), 6. Erik PAARTALU, 7. Nicholas FITZGERALD (9. Kofi DANNING 46'), 8. Massimo MURDOCCA, 17. Mitch NICHOLS, 21. James MEYER, 22. Thomas BROICH (18. Luke BRATTAN). **Substitutes not used:** 10. Tomislav CIRJAK, 11. James DONACHIE, 13. George LAMBADARIDIS, 20. Andrew REDMAYNE (GK). **Yellow cards:** Nil **Red cards:** Nil

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Alex Milic

Serbia

Partizan can consider itself lucky to take a positive result home in the Europa League following 1:1 with Irish side Shamrock Rovers.

The Serbian Champions took control of the match early on and opened the scoring through midfielder Nemanja Tomic who also scored both of the clubs goals in the aggregate loss to Genk in the Champions League. Partizan had more of the ball but lacked any inspiration from its midfielders who failed to provide any real chances. Shamrock took advantage of this and found an equaliser. With only a few minutes remaining the Irish side could have and should have found another goal but even the 1:1 will give the side confidence ahead of the 2nd leg in Belgrade which Partizan must win.

Red Star took on French side Rennes in front of 52,000 fans at the Marakana, Belgrade. Robert Prosinecki's men fancied their chances and things looked very well early on when Kadu scored from the spot to the delight of the home fans.

Red Star had a few more chances but failed to take advantage of the situation instead Rennes was becoming more and more comfort-

Balkan clubs in box seat for UCL



Dinamo celebrate after blitzing Sweden's Malmo 4-1 in the Champions League Play-Off.

able and levelled the scores just before half time as Pitroipa took advantage of the misunderstandings from the home sides defence.

Coming into the second half both sides were looking for another goal but Red Star again failed to make the most of its chances and once more Rennes would go onto the punish the 'red and whites' with 15 minutes remaining substitute Montana gave the French side the lead and another away goal. Red Star and its fans will look at this match as one of missed opportunities but Prosinecki's men do have another chance and will look to make the most of their chances in the return leg.

"The match had two phases and

all up we only made two mistakes which were unfortunately very costly for us. We dominated and we had a few more good chances until Rennes scored. They are a mature side but I have nothing bad to say about my boys we played well and we will look to make the most of our chances in the return leg, it's not over yet." Robert Prosinecki said following the match.

In the Serbian SuperLiga Novi Pazar played its first top flight match in front of its fans but were once more humbled this time they lost to FK Rad 3:0. Not the best of starts to the season but one thing is for sure their loyal fans will continue to come in numbers.

With the appointment of former

Mogren and Zeta Manager Dejan Vukicevic, FK Vojvodina was back to its winning ways as the 'red and whites' easily accounted for Metalac 3:0. A double from Brana Ilic has put the Novi Sad club back in the winning waters.

Croatia

Dinamo Zagreb is one foot into the Group Stages of the Champions League following its impressive 4:1 trashing against Swedish Champions FF Malmo.

Kruno Jurcic's men were unstoppable and apart from the only shot on their goal which ended in the back of the net, the Croatian champions were on fire and deservedly so take a big advantage into the

second leg. Sammir got the fans on their feet early on but Malmo levelled the score a few minutes later through Mehmeti. It was expected to be a tight match but the home side came roaring into the second half and scored three goals. Ante Rukavina made it 2:1 and a Sammir penalty gave the home side a two goal buffer. With only five minutes remaining substitute Montenegrin Fatos Beqiraj put Dinamo one foot into the Group Stages, his goal gave the most successful Croatian club a 4:1 lead going into the second leg.

This match was also proof that Dinamo needs better opposition from what they get week in week out in the Croatian League which they have won the last six seasons. "A manager has to be proud of his players following a performance like this. We played modern football, I spent all 15 minutes at halftime to tell my players everything was alright. Rukavina's goal opened the match up for us and from then on it was easy and free flowing football, something this country hasn't seen at club level for a long time." An ecstatic Kruno Jurcic said following the match.

Dinamo followed up the win against Malmo with another convincing performance in the Croatian League. Jurcic's men thrashed NK Osijek away from home 4:0. This is just proof Dinamo is on a hot streak and set to become the first Croatian club to play in the number one European Competition in 12 years when they also last played. Better opposition is needed and Dinamo is set to get their chance to play against the best on the continent.

Viva Espana

Pepe Lopez

La Liga On Strike

Real Madrid Coach Jose Mourinho once again fanned the flames of controversy after the latest "El Clasico" encounters.

The 2011 Spanish Super Cup brought together last season's Spanish Cup winners Real Madrid and Spanish League winners Barcelona, with Barcelona winning an epic encounter 5-4 on aggregate after a 3-2 win at Camp Nou in the second leg.

However just as last season's epic encounters ended in Barcelona's advantage, Real Madrid Coach Jose Mourinho managed to steal the limelight in dubious circumstances. "Someone has to take action on the matter. Mourinho is destroying Spanish football. "There is talk about the Catalans, but the problem is with Madrid. I think it's going to far. It cannot always end well."

In the end this will end very badly." Said Barcelona defender Gerard Pique of Jose's actions caught on camera where he appeared to poke the eye of Barcelona Assistant Coach Tito Vilanova.

Barcelona Coach Pep Guardiola appeared deeply concerned about the latest incident between arguably the world's biggest football club's and for certain the world's biggest club rivals.

"The images speak for themselves," he said. "We must be careful, because one day we will cause harm, not on the field but off, and we're all a little responsible for this."

The passion between Real Madrid and Barcelona is compounded, as for many supporters of the two clubs, the battle is more than just football, there is the additional tense political dimension.

Supporters of Madrid tend to be supporters of Spanish nationalism, whereas supporters of Barcelona tend to be supporters of an Independent Catalan Region.

Jose Mourinho's antics against Barcelona, a club he ironically was an assistant coach of many seasons ago, will go down in the deep history of incidents of these two clubs, going as far back as the 1930's, when the president of Barcelona Football Club Josep Sunyol was arrested and executed by the Spanish dictator Head of State Franco, for supporting a Catalan Republic. Never one to shy away from a fight, Mourinho attacked Barcelona; "From the first minute of the second half ... the ball boys hid themselves," Mourinho said. "That happens with tiny little teams when they are facing difficulties."

Despite the drama, one cool character caught in the crossfire was Barcelona's latest signing Cesc Fabregas, who tried to play down the controversy whilst being a victim of a nasty tackle that sparked the Mourinho incident; "This is very competitive football, we are talking about the two best clubs in the world and every team wants to win. This is normal in football that a situation like this can happen."

Meanwhile in other La Liga news, the opening round of the season was postponed due to a player strike. Many players from the first and second divisions of Spain are owed money by financially stricken clubs, and the players collectively are demanding guarantees of money owed, before they start the new season.

How Does A Young Australian Player Get to Play Football in Europe?

By Louise Brooks

How Does A Young Australian Player Get to Play Football in Europe - Joining An 18+ Italian Showcase Tour Is One Option: For Others Genova's Italian Residential Player Placement Program Offers Another Good Start.

For most Australian soccer players, attempts to establish a professional career are fraught with often insuperable challenges: the paucity of opportunities, struggles to be seen and selected, the problem of progression, perennial problems of injury and then crucially reselection at the end of each season.

For those who then aspire to play in the European football arena you can double all that difficulty and add the huge financial and logistical challenges of simple items like board and lodging, homesickness and the biggest conundrum of all - how to find a pathway to a professional European Club and how to get a trial? As a chosen career path it is probably on a par with one of the most insecure jobs you could choose, acting, and many eventually take their mother's advice and look for a 'proper' job, leaving soccer as a wistful dream or at best a hobby might yield the odd bit of pocket money.

There are, however, some narrow pathways to success. Director of Australian/Italian based Genova International School of Soccer and Melbourne-raised Morris Pagniello, helps young players from Australian and Canadian players to make the transition to Italy and play with top European teams.

Based on his very own personal experience of 'job seeking' as a young Australian determined to join the ranks of professional players in Europe, Pagniello, has successfully built on his own impressive contacts with top Europe Clubs and established Genova's 18+ pre-season tour in north Italy AND its residential player placement program in Zane, North Italy. Pagniello's now much sought after Over 18s Tour took place this year in Tonezza, Italy (region of Romeo



and Juliet - yes it is a hard life but not ALL the time!) to offer young footballers seeking to start a professional football career in Europe opportunities to play in front of scouted matches and the opportunity for senior players out of contract to find a Club for the 2011/12 season.

This year Pagniello set up five out of six matches against Serie A teams Napoli, Parma, Bologna, Novara, Chievo and Cittadella (serie B), in stadiums with audiences including invited scouts from across Italy.

Players who attended the 2010 tour and subsequently signed with Italian and European Clubs include Marco Rossi Catania Calcio serie A Italy; Mario Piraino, Portogruaro, Italy; Marcel DeBellis, Steven Domenici and Liam Graham to Vicenza Calcio Serie B Italy; Nadav Kariv to FC Wohlen 2nd Division; A. Visocic to Sanbonaifese Serie C Italy; Roberto Conti to Sestrese Serie D Italy; Frank Damiano, Adam Centofanti, Nick Modaffari and Calvin Lovric to Trento Calcio Serie D Italy (subsequently to Portogruaro).

The Zane Residential Player Placement Program In North Italy - Project Manager, John Curtis

If the tour fails to deliver immediately, players who are reluctant to return home to the far flung corners of the world can join his residential player placement program in Zane which supports young players with intensive coaching and training opportunities while further trials are sought. Pagniello enthusiastically announces:

"This season the program has a new project manager, ex-England and ex-Manchester United player John Curtis, who has been appointed to help coach and place players further afield than the current Italian successes of the program. John has also taken the field for Blackburn Rovers, Leicester City, Portsmouth, Nottingham Forest, Sheffield United, and Queens Park Rangers.

Pagniello comments: "It is a huge leap for a young player to combine their first experience of living away from home with having to find accommodation and limited work, while sustaining the required levels of training and fitness, not to mention the daunting task of trying to find a suitable Club or get scouted and eventually make the opportunity to trial. Our program manages these things for them - they get comfortable and safe accommodation with 3 nutritious meals a day and great mentoring and support from all our staff."

"On top of that they then get intensive, expert coaching and train every day, including stints in the gym and the pool, getting them totally fit to trial and succeed. This all takes place against the idyllic back drop of the mountains of North Italy!"

 GENOVA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL SOCCER

35 Players from Melbourne, Sydney, New Zealand and Canadian GISS Campuses Signed With Top European Teams

In the 2010/11 season, as a result of both the tour and the residential program, Morris Pagniello was able to sign a total of 35 players from Sydney, New Zealand and Canadian Genova ISS campuses but is particularly proud of achievements with players who have been developed over a four year period by GENOVA ISS's highly qualified and professional coaches at GENOVA's Melbourne and Canadian campuses.

In an extraordinary burst of achievements for not one but twelve young Melbourne footballers' dreams of becoming professional soccer players are coming true as these graduates of the Genova International School of Soccer (GENOVA ISS) and junior Melbourne Phoenix Club, finished the 2011 European season signed by a range of high level teams including Division 1 Hungary Club Kaposvar Rakoczi; Italian Serie B teams Vicenza Calcio and Portogruaro, and Trento Calcio Serie D.

Pagniello, who personally placed all the boys, is pleased with the result: "Players work hard to develop their skills. Positions in these teams are hard fought for places so our boys can be pleased with their well deserved achievements. Even though these boys were specially selected from our Australian and Canadian campuses when they first arrived in Italy they still had a long way, to go in spite of the many long hours of

training back home, they have stuck with it and we are proud of their success to date."

It has taken most of the boys between 12-18 months of hard graft overseas in the residential program, beefing up their junior training and experience in Australian to step up to the broadly much higher European benchmark and then waiting to be invited to trial.

As part of the residential program Pagniello organises high level matches against Serie A, B, C, and D teams where his players gain invaluable match experience and can be reviewed by invited scouts. Trials have included exciting, and valuable experiences playing in the UK, Italy, Turkey, Hungary and France.

Many of the boys come from the Melbourne GENOVA ISS campus where training is more or less daily (in contrast to most Clubs' once a week training) and the boys then progressed to GENOVA's residential player placement program in Italy. The program acts as a staging post where boys get even more focussed training, experience playing top flight teams and opportunities to trial and be placed in teams across Europe.

Even with all the bonuses of Pagniello's program the players still often have to grapple with the challenges of their chosen overseas pathway. The weather and culture can seem very different (boys have language lessons on a regular basis and some also choose to continue with limited distance education studies), homesickness can be an issue though the team environment helps overcome that but a totally seamless transition for everyone is rare as trials do not always guarantee a place and when boys have signed then they need to be endlessly patient as paperwork, passports and visas, and then inevitably injuries may frustrate their progress.

Finally Pagniello adds: "Of course not all boys want to go overseas and our intensive training sets them up to do well at home in Australia too. We currently have several juniors trailing for Melbourne Hearts and GENOVA ISS graduates playing professionally in Australia."

LONDON CALLING

With Leroy Robinson in the UK

Anyone who saw (or perhaps attended) Arsenal's home game with Liverpool on Saturday couldn't have failed to notice something. It wasn't something tangible; in fact it was something conspicuous by its absence - atmosphere. Having watched from the terraces at Arsenal's old Highbury ground, the contrast couldn't have been more different than The Emirates. There were times when you needed ear plugs at the Clock End Stand; such was the deafening level of noise. Contrast that with the current stadium, where games seem to be punctuated by sporadic chanting which seems to act as a break from boredom rather than as a concerted effort to get behind the team.

In fact, anyone watching the games against both Udinese and Liverpool could see that the opposition didn't feel in the least bit intimidated. Part of this can be put down to the mediocrity of the home team. But even when the team contained Henry, Pires and Viera, the fans didn't quite create the pulsating atmosphere you'd expect. There are a number of reasons for this. Invariably, Arsenal is a large club, and whoever they play at home they are generally expected to beat. This can create a kind of inertia amongst the fans, as if the players don't really need their support. Due to this one does get the feeling that there isn't quite the hostility towards the opposition players (Joey Barton excepted) that there ought to be. You almost get the feeling the fans, sitting in their nice stadium in their expensive seats, are acting a little too civilised.

If you think I'm just picking on Arsenal then think again. Arsenal is not an isolated example. This idea that some Premier League grounds are not atmospheric enough was brought to my attention by some comments in a West Bromwich Albion fans forum. Some Baggies fans were lamenting the lack of atmosphere in the opening day defeat at home to Manchester United. This had me absolutely flabbergasted! If

the fans cannot be 'up for it' when the team plays the current champions, and the biggest club in the country, then they must be on sleeping pills. In England, it was once the domain of smaller clubs such as Albion to make up for their inferiority on the pitch by having fans that out-sung their counterparts off it. Not any more it seems.

Then there is Manchester United. Focus on any Manchester United home game against any team other than against Liverpool (and perhaps Man City, now that they are good) and you'll find the same thing: sporadic outbreaks of singing. Yet go to Anfield or Stoke and you seem to get a much more raucous atmosphere no matter who the opposition. In fact, it's a common chant from away fans to taunt the home fans by singing 'your support is fucking shit'. To be absolutely fair, when I attended away games, the support was usually quite vociferous between the sets of fans, sometimes bordering on hate. Yet there is something far more concerning about a muted fan than an opinionated one.

So what can be done about the lack of atmosphere at some grounds? One thing that needs to be acknowledged is that the metamorphosis of football clubs into businesses has changed a great many things, most for the better. The facilities are fantastic, the players are great and the product is entertaining. However, when all-seater stadia were introduced after the Hillsborough Stadium disaster in 1989, it took some of the soul from English football. Much as I would love to return to the days of standing - which happens all over Europe without any problems - I'm not naive enough to think it'll happen anytime soon.

One of the best solutions - an Ultras section - actually came from the aforementioned West Brom forum. The problem with some football grounds is that there are some fans that take watching a football match literally, and whilst not sitting on their hands, won't actually sing either. You wonder why these fans at-

A Lack of Atmosphere Isn't Just Confined To Mars!



Fever Pitch? Muted and miserable Gooners reflect.



Harry makes a point to Modric.

tend at all when they could just get a TV subscription. However, that is their right. But why not put the hardcore fans together at one end of the ground? Manchester United is a case in point. They get 76,000 plus but last year they were at times out-sung Blackpool fans. United's biggest problem is that some of their fans are tourists, people who have latched onto a successful club. Think I'm wrong? I was at Victoria coach Station one night after a United match and the number of people with bags from the United shop coming back from Manchester would astound you. And that's just people coming back to London. Many of these fans were brought up on winning and will only sing in the really big games (i.e. UCL). Sometimes when United are behind they'll find their voice too. Why not put the hardcore fans in one end and leave the non-singers to eat their prawn sandwiches in peace and quiet?

Something I have seen on the continent, which might sound rather juvenile, are cheerleaders. No, not the kind with pom-poms and short skirts! If you've ever watched a Marseille game at the Stade Velodrome then you'll know what I mean. They have a novel way of geeing up the crowd in the south of France even though they, like a lot of European clubs, do have an Ultras section. There is a raised pedestal facing the crowd which one of the fans stands on whilst brandishing a loudspeaker. He starts most of the chants, and usually these are taken up by the rest of the Ultras. Believe me, this works. In Berlin I was sitting next to the Ultras section and heard chanting for the vast majority of the game.

Fulham Football Club seems to have gotten this more-or-less right. The Hammersmith End of their ground seems to be devoted to the more vociferous supporter, and although the atmosphere still isn't quite what I recall from going to places like White Hart Lane, Upon Park and Highbury when there was terracing, by Premier League standards it is an excellent atmosphere, especially for the games against the big six. Perhaps the eroding of atmosphere at our grounds is an indictment on the stadia, the passion of the fans or the way in which football has changed to become a business - with players more loyal to their bank balance than their club, but, whatever it is, the issue needs

to be looked at by some clubs.

Love Him, Hate Him, But You Can't Ignore Him

For a club that are only the 5th biggest in the Premier League, it is awfully hard to ignore Tottenham Hotspur and to keep Harry Redknapp out of the news. Harry Redknapp - he who swore that Luka Modric would not be sold to Chelsea - has now come on the record as saying that selling him might actually be a good thing.

"We all love our club, but if someone comes along who offers to treble your wages and could win the Champions League, then it's not easy," he said. "He's had his head turned. I want to see him here at the start of the year, but if he goes then you get three or four players [in]. They're your options: get the money and get four players and, in all honesty, have a better team, or keep Luka, who is a fantastic player."

What he doesn't seem to understand is that simple mathematics dictates that, even if Modric is sold, Spurs will not sign the four players he seems to think will give them a better team. Why? Let us be optimistic about Chelsea's offer and say

Spurs get the £35million they are said to be demanding. Let's also say that Tottenham Hotspur Chairman Daniel Levy let's Cockney Harry reinvest this into the squad. A decent player costs about £8million, and with wages of say £30,000 a week (£1.5million) a year over four years this equals an outlay of another £6million. Levy would be losing a player on a reported £40,000 a week and spending £32million in fees and £24million in wages, whilst adding to an already burgeoning squad. Daniel Levy, ladies and gentlemen, is not that stupid. I can't see Spurs signing four players when, quite frankly, they already have a large squad of players, some of which they can't get rid of. It does, however, look like Luka will be sold to Chelsea because of the lure of higher wages/ Champions League football/shot at winning the title - just delete as appropriate. Or maybe Luka didn't appreciate Redknapp showing him his middle finger after being subbed against Aston Villa in October of last year.

Follow me on Twitter @LeRoyJRobinson

London Eye

Nick Dorrington

Fulham are the sort of club it is almost impossible to dislike. Their stadium, perched on the edge of the Thames, has the feel of being Peter Street's next project after the construction of the Globe, they play neat, attractive passing football, and in the jovial Dutchman Martin Jol have one of the Premier League's most likeable managers.

Add Europa League football into the mix and Craven Cottage on summer's evening with an organic lamb burger in one hand and a pint in the other suddenly seems a very tempting proposition. But this is England, and even on such a summer's evening the weather cannot be relied on to play its part. Thus it was on a damp and murky eventide that Fulham hosted Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk in the playoff round of the Europa

The Continent Comes to London

League this past Thursday. Not that the weather was able to rain on Fulham's parade, as they ran out 3-0 winners to put themselves within touching distance of the group stage. It wasn't all plain sailing for Jol's men, however. Dnipro kept possession nicely at times, reminiscent of the way in which their fellow Ukrainians Shakhtar Donetsk did so during Fulham's last Europa League adventure a couple of seasons back.

And in the young Brazilian Giuliano they had a highly imaginative attacking midfielder, capable of moments of subtlety that evoked the spirit of Fulham legend Johnny Haynes, whose name adorns the stand that Dnipro's small but rowdy collection of supporters were stationed in the corner of. Were it not for some shambolic defending Dnipro might even have gone back to the Ukraine with a decent chance of progressing. As it was, Fulham were able to build a commanding lead ahead of the return leg. There was also some solace for Jol in defeating a side coached

and Robin Van Persie suspended, and the omens didn't appear good for Arsene Wenger's men. Wenger was himself suspended from the dugout following his comments in the wake of Arsenal's elimination at the hands of Barcelona in last year's competition and watched from the stands as his side brushed aside the pre-match negativity by taking an early lead through Theo Walcott. But that was pretty much as good as it got for the Gunners as Udinese proved worthy opponents, breaking with pace out of midfield and creating some noteworthy chances, most notably for Colombian wingback Pablo Armero. Despite also losing an important player to Barcelona in the form of the explosive Chilean forward Alexis Sanchez - as well as Cristian Zapata and Gokhan Inler to Villarreal and Napoli respectively - the Italians were impressive and must now harbour hopes of overturning their deficit in Udine next week. Should they fail to do so, then with Chelsea already qualified for the next round of the Champions League, London will

potentially have four teams in the group stages of European competition this season. This would bring a guaranteed 12 continental teams to the public of England's recently disgraced capital - two games in each of the six weeks of group competition. This is the most of any major city in Europe, and will make the run-up to Christmas, when the evenings become ever shorter and the mornings ever colder, that much more bearable for its football loving citizens.

Transfer Deadline Looms
With the end of August transfer deadline day looming ever closer, a number of English teams are involved in last minute attempts to add to their squads.

Tottenham have been very quiet on the transfer front thus far, but are expected to spring to life in the next week or so. A deal of Real Madrid's former Arsenal, Chelsea and Portsmouth midfielder Lassana Diarra looks close to completion, as does a loan deal for Manchester City's Emmanuel Adebayor, another who previously plied his trade for their fierce North London rivals Arsenal. Arsenal are themselves

in need of reinforcements. With his transfer kitty bolstered by the sale of Cesc Fabregas to Barcelona, Arsene Wenger will surely look to add an experienced central defender, a striker/wide forward and possibly even another central midfielder to his squad.

Chelsea are on the verge of signing the talented Spaniard Juan Mata from Valencia and still hold an interest in Tottenham's Luka Modric, although their coach Andre Villas Boas has suggested they won't be held to ransom by their London neighbours. Manchester United appear to have concluded their business, with a move for Inter Milan's Wesley Sneijder now seemingly dead in the water, while their cross-city rivals City are still hopeful of adding Arsenal's Samir Nasri to their expensively assembled squad.

Elsewhere, Blackburn are still chasing a couple of signings, Newcastle will surely look to sign another striker and QPR, newly flush from Tony Fernandes' take-over, are expected to splash the cash sooner rather than later. All in all, it promises to be an interesting ten days or so.



Guest Players BLAST FROM THE PAST

With Roy Hay

Saturday's Division Two North West game between Werribee City and Brunswick City which involved former Socceroo Craig Moore as a guest player lining up alongside former colleagues Danny Tiatto and Joe Spiteri got me thinking about guest players in Australia over the years.

Stanley Matthews came to Australia with Blackpool in 1958 and was invited back as a guest the following year with the carrot being some top class tennis coaching for his son as much as the payment for himself. He was always careful in looking after the bawbees was Stanley and he did not take up the offer, though it is believed he was tempted.

Internal poaching of players as guests for critical matches happened in the 1960s. In 1964, Croatia won the first division after an enthralling struggle with Makedonia which went right to the final game, which happened to be between the two promotion contenders. Croatia only lost one game and drew three in the league season.

The Scots of Moreland inflicted the defeat, while Bayswater, Sandringham and Makedonia, in their first encounter, were able to share the points. The last match of the season would decide the league and neither side was prepared to contemplate defeat. Both clubs sent representatives to Sydney to sign players on loan to play in the crucial game. **Frank Burin** managed to recruit six players from sister clubs in Sydney and returned to Melbourne in triumph believing he had the talent to ensure victory. But the clearances for the players did not come through and a message to Frank's home was waiting for him when arrived, so the visitors had to watch the game from the sidelines. Makedonia had been luckier, or more resourceful, and had **Jelasavlevich** from Sydney in the team, whom they reported had been cleared to play.

As it turned out the additional strength was not required and local Croatians proved capable of doing the job on their own. Croatia won

by three goals to one. The team was Mirko Kovacek, George Briscuso, Tibi Becsi, Bruno Slivar, Ivo Matijevic, John Tato, Jim Vojtek, Horst Rau, Harry Richmond, Billy Vojtek and Ollie Norris. The match was played at Port Melbourne, and the attendance was said to be 4,000. The referee was Geoff Harrison and two of Croatia's goals were scored by Billy Vojtek, and the other by Horst Rau. Grosdanov replied for Makedonia.

Charlie George and **Malcolm 'Supermac' Macdonald** were both in Australia as guest players in 1977 with St George and South Melbourne Hellas respectively. That was the first season of the National Soccer League and they met at Middle Park on 15 June with Macdonald scoring twice, but Charlie George got the winner in a 3-2 result. That was George's only goal in six games for St George. Macdonald was insured for \$500,000 for three games and South Melbourne asked the clubs he played against to chip in to help pay the premium of \$2,000.

So Melbourne Victory's seeking opponents to pay part of Harry Kewell's current asking price is not unprecedented.

England's 1966 World Cup winner **Bobby Charlton** had one game with Newcastle KB United in 1978 and he also played for Blacktown City in 1980 scoring in his only game. Including Charlton GW believes there have been five World Cup winners in total who have at one time or another played in Australian football league competitions.

The others were 1966 English World Cup winner **Martin Peters** (Norwich City and Frankston City in 1980), **Osvaldo Ardiles** (Argentina 1978 and St George in 1985), **Francesco Graziani** (Italy 1982 and APIA Leichhardt in 1988) and **Romario** (Brazil 1994 and Adelaide United 2006).

Nicola Berti played in Italy's 1994 World Cup Final loss to Brazil before later turning up six years later in the NSL in 2001/02 to score 2 goals in 19 games for Northern Spirit.

The best of the guests



Les Murray interviews Kevin Keegan. Photo: Les Shorrock. Les Shorrock collection, Deakin University Library.



Charlie George celebrates his goal against South Melbourne Hellas in 1977. Photo: Les Shorrock. Les Shorrock collection, Deakin University Library.

The current A-League allows for what are called marquee and guest players, and while the former category has been widely used, guests are infrequent. Brazilian superstriker **Romario** arrived in the second season of the league and played four games for Adelaide United. He did not set the world on fire though he helped draw a few spectators through the gate. **Benito Carbone** joined Sydney FC that year too and scored a couple of goals, but injured a hamstring after only three games.

Craig Johnston had a stint as a guest player at Newcastle KB United in 1978, playing 9 games and came back again in 1982 for another four games. The highlight was a hat-trick against Brisbane Lions on 26 June in a three-one win. After the match around 1,000 youngsters spilled on to the pitch to greet their hero. In his first spell he was at Middlesbrough, but by the time he came back he had moved to Liverpool. **Kevin Keegan** arrived at Blacktown City in the NSL in 1985 scoring one goal in two

games for the club.

Then of course there was **Peter 'Gus' Tsolakis**. He was a guest player for his favourite club West Ham United when they turned up one short for a match at Olympic Park. Not bad being a guest player in your own country for a First Division English club.

Amongst others we can recall who graced Australian soccer shores at one time or another under the guise of guest player in order to help make the turnstiles click at the gate were: **Francis Lee** (Manchester City and St George in 1976), **Ralph Coates** (Tottenham and St George in 1978), **Ray Clemence** (Liverpool and St George in 1978), **Ian Rush** (Liverpool and Welsh legend played 3 games for Sydney Olympic and scored 1 goal in 1999), **Justin Fashanu** (Norwich City and Adelaide City, played 11 games with 5 goals in two stints in 1980 and 1981), **Martin Chivers** (Tottenham star who played 2 games for Frank-

ston City in 1980), **Bob Latchford** (Everton striker who played a handful of games and for Brisbane Lions in 1981), **Peter Beardsley** (Former Liverpool, Newcastle United and Everton star played 2 games for Melbourne Knights in 1999), **Peter Barnes** (Former Manchester City, Leeds United, Manchester United and England winger played 2 games for Footscray JUST in 1989), **Paul Mariner** (Ipswich Town and England striker played 2 games for Wollongong City in 1988), **Alan Brazil** (Ipswich Town and Scotland striker played 12 games and scored 4 goals for Wollongong City in 1988), **George Best** (Manchester United and Northern Ireland legend played 4 games for Brisbane Lions in 1983), **Mick Channon** (Manchester City, Southampton and England striker played 4 games with 3 goals for Newcastle KB United in 1981). Last but not least there was **John Samaras** - the son of Georgios Samaras who was one of the founder members of South Melbourne Hellas back in the 1950s. John was a

former Panathinaikos and OFI Crete striker who returned to Australia in 1988 to play one game for South as a guest. John refused any match fee and scored the winner in a 2-1 win over Sydney Olympic - and fulfilled a dream to play for his father's club. John is also the father of Celtic's Giorgios Samaras.

I don't know of any consolidated list of guest players in the long history of the game in this country and given the rather uncertain conditions under which many players were attracted to spend some time down under, it is unlikely that a comprehensive one will be possible. It would be good if our eagle eyed readers and those with long memories could send Goal Weekly any details about guest players, particularly those from non-UK sources so that we can try to compile the best list we can. You can use the comments box at the end of the column on the website to do so if you wish.



Bobby Charlton puts over a cross.

Source: Laurie Schwab collection, Deakin University Library.



The charismatic Craig Johnston mesmerises a youngster, seven year old Leigh Osbourne.

Source: Laurie Schwab collection, Deakin University Library.

Gallego sacked from Colo-Colo and Falcioni on the look-out at Boca

Latin Wrap



Francis Fields

Main news coming in from Argentina that Juan Román Riquelme after a three-year absence from the national team was called up once again under new coach Alejandro Sabella to play in the double-date friendlies against Brazil early September. The other headline goes to Argentine coach Américo Gallego has been sacked by leading Chilean club Colo-Colo following a 3-0 humble league defeat two weekends ago by modest club Universidad de Concepción.

Colo-Colo, administered by the firm Blanco y Negro, said last Friday they were unhappy with the team's performances under the 56-year-old who took charge in February on a contract until the end of the year.

"We have decided to put an end to the contract with the coaching staff headed by Américo Rubén Gallego," Blanco y Negro president Hernan Levy told a news conference.

"We need Colo-Colo's tradition to be better interpreted. We also believe we must take better advantage of the players we have signed recently."

Blanco y Negro, which is quoted on the Chilean stock exchange, invested around US\$6 million in squad signing as reinforcements for the Clausura or closing championship, the second of two semesters in the year.

Colo-Colo finished the Apertura or Opening championship in eighth place, have taken three points from their two matches and were knocked out in the first round of South America's elite club competition, the Copa Libertadores where they drawn with eventual champion Santos.

They are the only Chilean team to have won the Copa, in 1991. Fans had also begun to show discontent to what was perceived as a defensive, conservative approach to coaching a side used to winning titles. He was branded as lacking creativity in attack.

Former midfielder Gallego, a 1978 World Cup winner with Argentina who has won league titles as a coach in his country and Mexico, said: "I want to make it clear I did not resign. (The directors) have a different project".

Youth coach Luis Pérez was appointed caretaker with the backing of technical director, former player and coach Jaime Pizarro who will supervise the intervening operations with the view of



Football director and former coach Jaime Pizarro seen here with sacked "Tolo" Gallego at Colo-Colo

finding the next replacement for the role at the Chilean club giant.

Pérez has not ruled out giving himself a chance at getting the top job if he gets the nod of approval from the board however he emphasized that the number one priority this very moment is to get positive results a club that is always under intense pressure and high demand.

Boca On The Edge

Another club with prospects of changing at the coaching reigns is Boca Juniors. According to some reports in Argentina the current coach Julio César Falcioni is already making himself wary and moving around with a "backup plan" in case his current tenure at the popular club goes wrong.

Boca is facing difficult hours at the moment despite its current run of form in the first three rounds of the Apertura or opening championship because this year is an election year at the club where each candidates wants to take water to their well.

Coach Falcioni is aware that beyond the month of December he may not be at the top job any longer.

One of his options would be returning to Banfield, the club that saw him rise as manager and winning a memorable title in the Apertura or opening championship of 2009. The reason being is not because of his friendship with current Banfield club boss Carlos Portell but because he has already initiated contacts with running candidate Eduardo Spinoza in case he wins in the next presidential elections.

This is a curious case where Falcioni has a much publicised animosity with Banfield president Carlos Portell but despite their differences they have been able to professionally put things aside and achieve a common accord that he may be a possible candidate for the coaching job as current manager Sebastián "Gallego" Méndez is without a win in the Clausura with Banfield, the much-loved and

well-known "Taladro" team.

For those living under a rock and unaware that River Plate descended into not only chaos but to the second division of Argentina's professional football setup, the club will not only have to live with the next three years in the second tier and much to the calamity and mocking by their rival fans at Boca.

What also became famous after their relegation and their demise, they did notch a debut win in the Primera B division with a narrow win over Chacarita Juniors at home however a lot of attention drifted to a much more popular and enigmatic figure of late.

Surprise backflip for Flamengo

Second-placed Flamengo was on the wrong end of a surprising 4-1 defeat to Atletico Goianiense to leave Corinthians three points clear at the top of the the Brazilian championship.

Pitúca and Juninho made it 2-0 to the visitors at half-time, with Anselmo and Diogo Campos doubling the lead before Jael's late consolation.

Joilson saw red for Goianiense four minutes from time.

Third-placed São Paulo were held 1-1 by America MG. Last week they also made headlines for having 39-year old great Rivaldo in their ranks and also putting his name on the scoresheet.

São Paulo thought they had stolen the game with Bonfim Marlos' 85th-minute strike only for Everton Kempes to level matters just a minute later.

Palmeiras drew 1-1 with Bahia, with Chilean international playmaker Jorge Valdivia scoring in the 53rd minute while Christian Titi equalised for the Bahianos.

Mexico

Chivas of Guadalajara won 2-1 at Morelia to also remain unbeaten - one point behind Pumas with a game in hand. A swift move by the Chivas offense in the 79th caught Morelia

by surprise and Antonio Galardo beat a defender and got just enough on the ball to steer it into the net.

Monterrey held on to third place with nine points despite a 1-0 loss at San Luis, and fourth place Cruz Azul managed only a 1-1 draw at Jaguares to improve to eight points.

In other results this weekend: Tigres and América drew 2-2, Pachuca won 3-0 at home against Toluca, Estudiantes Tecos beat local rivals Atlas 2-0, Tijuana and Puebla fought out a 1-1 draw, and relegation-threatened Querétaro won 3-1 at last-place Atlante.

Pumas, the defending champions, came from behind against Santos. Striker Oribe Peralta opened the scoring for Santos with an overhead kick in the 57th, following up on his midweek goal for Mexico in a friendly against the United States.

Eduardo Herrera got the equalizer for Pumas in the 79th. Chivas scored late to win at Morelia after being reduced to nine men following two red cards.

Tigres, also unbeaten with one win and four draws this season, was close to getting the three points against América after launching a second-half comeback.

América opened the scoring early in the first half with a back-heeled goal from Christian Benítez, but Tigres equalized in the 66th and then took the lead with just seven minutes remaining.

América got the equalizer in the last minute from Renato González.

Monterrey fell to San Luis without Chilean striker Humberto Suazo, who was injured. Christian Sánchez scored for San Luis in the 18th.

Jaguares, who are in danger of being relegated, got a point at home against giant Cruz Azul after falling behind with an own goal after five minutes. Jaguares' Chilean defender Ismael Fuentes equalized in the 58th.

Pachuca continued its unpredictable start to the season with a 3-0



River Plate fans may well want to consider changing their nickname to 'The Titanics' after the unthinkable actually happened to them last season.

victory against Toluca. Pachuca, which had lost two of its last three matches, opened the scoring in the 2nd minute with a goal by Enrique Esqueda. Carlos Rodríguez and Mauro Cejas also scored.

A week after Estudiantes Tecos' José Luis Sánchez became the first coach to be fired in the Apertura tournament, the team rallied against Atlas on Saturday, winning 2-0. Both teams are in the thick of relegation battle.

Tijuana and Puebla both had chances in their match, but drew 1-1. Colombian Dayro Moreno opened the scoring for Tijuana with a direct freekick from the left touchline that sailed over the Puebla keeper and into the roof of the net.

Fellow Colombian Duvier Riascos equalized for Puebla.

Atlante is at the bottom of the league standings after its home loss to Querétaro, which has won its last two games.

Meanwhile Fulham full-back and Mexican international Carlos Salcido has joined club outfit Tigres on a season-long loan deal.

The 31-year-old joined the Cottagers last summer from PSV Eindhoven and impressed during his first season in the Barclays Premier League. However, Salcido grew unsettled at the west London club after a robbery at his house resulted in his family leaving England and returning home.

The full-back has now joined Nuevo Leon-based club Tigres after undergoing a medical in Mexico on Tuesday.

Fulham confirmed the deal on their official Twitter page and Salcido is likely to join up with his new team-mates for training on Wednesday.

Introducing you to the pacifist, "Tano" Pasman.

Cry Me A River On You Tube

The most famous of River Plate fans began to pumping hearts out when he sky-rocketed You-Tube hits online close to seven million when his beloved side went down and hit rock-bottom.

Now Pasman has commenced a hilarious new adventure for curious on-lookers and on the eve of River Plate's historic second division debut, journalists flocked to his modest house in the neighbourhood barrio of Bellavista in Buenos Aires to follow his antics in front of the television screen.

See this man created online mayhem and laughs aplenty when witnessing his beloved club relegated to the second tier when his screaming and fury was captured on an amateur home video. The remarks, passion and antics of the man captured the hearts not only of football fans but to millions across Argentina, Latin America and the world.

The much-suffered and painstaking fanatic was in front of four television crews broadcasting from his couch a live television reality show "Reactions of a Pacifist, part III". This hilarious episode was also hosted by the hardcore fan's wife who provided a quasi-catering service for the guests at home, making it a special evening.

Thing is, "Tano" Pasman is a highly extrovert man, vocal and passionate to the core who screams on top of his lungs in front of his television set. He did admit on the night, "my passion does go overboard and my antics need some control but as much as I love my club and scream in front of the TV, I cannot change the way the play nor the result."

Too right and now the man is so famous down the street, his once modest Facebook and Twitter social network accounts spiraled out of control and admitted that one day, just one day, "everything will be back to normal".

If River Plate goes back to the top-flight, that is.

Adiós for another week, Oh and if you see me online or out on the street don't forget to wish me a happy birthday!

Happy Birthday, Amigo! The Coronas are on me at Zagames! Ed.



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Mike Salter

Stuttering leaders Sydney Olympic, rocked by the departure of a key player during the week, were held to a 1-1 draw at Belmore by Rockdale City on Sunday; details of that game can be found below. Second-placed Sydney United failed to take advantage, however, going down 1-0 at home to recovering APIA-Leichhardt, who have now won three games on the spin.

On Saturday evening, Bonnyrigg finally ensured themselves of a place in the top five by spanking Sutherland 5-2, Sydney FC youth star Jared Lum impressing with a hat-trick. Blacktown City and Marconi were both held to 1-1 draws at home, by South Coast and Parramatta respectively, while Manly United all but ensured Bankstown City's relegation with a 1-0 win at Jensen Park.

Sydney Olympic 1-1 Rockdale City
Despite starting their game against Rockdale in tentative fashion, competition leaders Sydney Olympic came storming home in the final fifteen minutes, and were ultimately somewhat unlucky not to claim all three points.

The hosts' winger Will Angel was causing problems on the Rockdale right early on, but the first chance fell to the visiting side. Paul Dee was allowed to burst through the Olympic midfield and float a cross into the path of an advancing Jason Naidovski, who narrowly failed to make contact only a few yards from goal.

From the ten-minute mark onwards, Rockdale began to dictate matters, dominating the midfield area completely. An audacious overhead kick from Josh Lawson pinged off the bar on 14 minutes, with Sash Tirovski not quite able to force the rebound home. Three minutes later Lawson was involved again when his accurate long throw reached an unmarked James Monie six yards from the Olympic goal. Monie's powerful header drew a fine one-handed save from Paul Henderson. The breakthrough arrived on 26 minutes. A deft chip from Rockdale captain Pece Apolevski fell into the path of the overlapping left-back Shay Spitz, whose bullet header flew past Henderson and in at the far post.

Robert Mileski tried to give renewed

Olympic Still Clear Despite Home Draw



NSW Premier League action from Marconi versus Parramatta. Photo: CARLOS FURTADO/ COURTESY FNSW

impetus to Olympic with a purposeful run through the midfield on 29 minutes, which ended in a shot that fizzed just wide of goal. The visitors continued to look the better side, however, until a goal out of nowhere five minutes from the interval. With their team awarded a free kick to the left of goal, Olympic fans must have expected their dead-ball talisman Chris Triantis to step up to the mark. Instead it was club captain Phil Makrys who sent an extraordinary swerving shot past Rockdale keeper Dion Shaw and into the top corner. Rockdale began the second half strongly. Naidovski went achingly close to scor-

ing the away side's second when Dee's smart pass set him free in the inside-left channel; slipping the ball neatly under Henderson, the former Newcastle Jet was dismayed to see the ball come back off the inside of the far post. On 55 minutes, Monie should have done better with his header from Spitz's well-flighted cross from the left. As the half wore on, the initiative began to change hands. David Gullo, having a very quiet game, was released on the left on 71 minutes but slipped at the key moment. Two minutes later Triantis found himself free on the right, and his eventual shot almost squirmed under Shaw's arms.

Olympic were now in the ascendancy. Makrys nearly scored his second on 78 minutes, forcing Shaw into a good save from the left-hand side of the box. When young striker Tod Bamber replaced a tiring and ineffectual Gullo, it became one-way traffic: a whirlwind Olympic move on the left reached Emmanuel Giannaros on 82 minutes, but the right-back found Shaw on his mettle again, the Rockdale custodian making a sharp one-handed save. An even better save kept Rockdale level five minutes later, when the heavy wind helped a long goal-kick from Henderson reach Bamber in the area. With the Olympic substitute only six yards from

goal, Shaw produced a spectacular save to deny him. Another Olympic substitute, Zac Elrich, should have done better when Shaw for once found himself stranded on 89 minutes; this time, however, Lawson managed to clear Elrich's unimpressive shot from the line. Seconds later Elrich was again free on the right, but this time Shaw was on hand to smother the chance. 1-1 it finished, and despite retaining the competition lead, Olympic will feel this was two points lost.

NSW Results

NSW PREMIER LEAGUE: ROUND 21: FIRST GRADE: Blacktown City FC 1 (Luke Austin 74m) South Coast Wolves 1 (John Martinowski 82m), Sydney Olympic 1 (Philip Makrys 40m) Rockdale City Suns 1 (Shay Spitz 25m), Bankstown City 0 Manly United FC 1 (Justin Hayward 71m), Marconi Stallions 1 (Nicolo Sama 68m) Parramatta Eagles 1 (Evangelos Petros 72m), Sydney United 0 APIA Tigers 1 (David D'Apuzzo 71m), Bonnyrigg White Eagles 5 (Jared Lum 10/33/45m Bradley Boardman 82m Brendan Gan 87m) Sutherland Sharks 2 (Matthew Bailey 43m Todd Halloran 49m).

GRADE 20: Blacktown City FC 1 South Coast Wolves 0, Sydney Olympic 1 Rockdale City Suns 4, Bankstown City 2 Manly United FC 4, Marconi Stallions 3 Parramatta Eagles 2, Sydney United 0 APIA Tigers 0.

GRADE 18: Blacktown City FC 4 South Coast Wolves 1, Sydney Olympic 2 Rockdale City Suns 1, Bankstown City 1 Manly United FC 7, Marconi Stallions 1 Parramatta Eagles 0, Sydney United APIA Tigers 0.

Next Round

Sydney Olympic vs Bonnyrigg WE
Belmore Sports Grnd 3:00 PM Sun 28/Aug

Bankstown City vs Sydney United
Jensen Park 3:00 PM Sun 28/Aug

APIA Leichhardt vs Marconi Stallions
Lambert Park 3:00 PM Sun 28/Aug

Blacktown City FC vs Manly United FC
Lily Homes 3:00 PM Sun 28/Aug

Parramatta FC vs Rockdale City Suns
Mellita Stadium 3:00 PM Sun 28/Aug

Sutherland Sharks vs St Coast Wolves
Seymour Shaw Park 3:00 PM Sun 28/Aug

Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Sydney Olympic	20	12	5	3	36	25	11	39
2 Sydney United	20	10	4	6	34	21	13	38
3 Sutherland Sharks	20	10	5	5	28	24	4	35
4 Blacktown City FC	20	10	6	4	32	18	14	34
5 Bonnyrigg WE	20	8	4	8	31	21	10	32
6 Marconi Stallions	20	6	7	7	27	22	5	25
7 Manly United FC	20	6	7	7	27	35	-8	25
8 South Coast Wolves	20	7	10	3	30	35	-5	24
9 Rockdale City Suns	20	6	10	4	20	28	-8	22
10 APIA Leichhardt	20	6	10	4	24	33	-9	22
11 Bankstown City	20	6	11	3	27	40	-13	21
12 Parramatta FC	20	4	12	4	19	33	-14	16

It's a Strikers v Fire Grand Final!



The victorious Fire squad now prepares to defend their title against Strikers. Photo: ROBYN WOODALL



Tyson Holmes scores one of his hat-trick goals. Photo: ROBYN WOODALL

QSL Finals Series Results

FINAL SCORE: Sunshine Coast FC - 4 (Holmes, 5, 57, 85, Hicks, 52) Whitsunday Miners - 1 (Mundy, 19)

STARTING LINEUPS, SUNSHINE COAST FC - Antony Hall, James Stinson, Ryan Smith, Alex Henderson, Sam Knight, Leon Dwyer, Greig Henslee, Dylan Roberts, Jason Hicks, Tyson Holmes, Shaun Blackman. SUBS - Kota Shibahashi for Jason Hicks (81'), Daniel King for Shaun Blackman (87').

WHITSUNDAY MINERS - Brad Moss, Nelson Burgess, Corey Hooper, Kyle McBurney, Jamie Hatch, Brett Neeve, Clark Bradford, Jamie White, Jordan Corte, Sean Hughes, Troy Mundy. SUBS - Joe Civello for Troy Mundy (72'), Matt Zappone for Kyle McBurney (72'), Aaron Craig for Brett Neeve (77').

QSL Finals Series

Grand Final

Brisbane Strikers vs Sunshine Coast Fire

Saturday 27th August KO 7pm Perry Park

I thought we played well, it wouldn't have been a nice game to watch because of the conditions, but we created a lot of chances. Next week will be difficult, the Strikers have had the week off, they'll be well rested. We'll regroup at training during the week, see where we're at, and then head to Brisbane and try and get the trophy."

Saturday night will see the 2011 Queensland State League Champions crowned, when the Fire and Strikers again do battle at Perry Park. The Fire came out on top in the 2008 and 2010 Grand Final's with 1-0 victories, and spectators can expect a similar close contest this time around.

Also on Sunday afternoon, the Sunshine Coast Fire Under-19s were victorious in the Major Semi Final of the Queensland State League Youth Division, scoring a comfortable 4-1 win over South West Queensland.

In the following minutes, Whitsunday were not afraid to get stuck in as they searched for an equaliser. Dangerous midfielder Clark Bradford lashed an effort over the bar from 20 yards after 10 minutes of play.

As the Sunshine Coast began to get on top in the midfield battle, Holmes aimed a long ball towards tall forward Shaun Blackman, who connected strongly with a header from six yards out that Moss did well to save.

On 19 minutes the contest was all square, when the Miners won a throw in on the right flank and raced the ball down to the corner flag, before sending in a cross towards target man Troy Mundy. Mundy produced a fine finish as he headed past Fire keeper Antony Hall to tie the fixture up.

With the middle of the pitch beginning to resemble a swamp, the Miners began

to find some traction and were holding their own. Jamie Hatch forced a save from Hall when he shot accurately from 20 yards. Soon after, Whitsunday broke quickly through Jordan Corte who outpaced the defence to move into the penalty area and shoot, but Hall was again up to the challenge.

With 10 minutes to play in the first half, the heavens opened once again and the match was played in teeming rain. From 30 yards out, Holmes had an audacious free-kick clawed acrobatically away from the top corner by Moss, and the scores remained 1-1.

On the brink of half-time, an erratic back-pass from Nelson Burgess won a corner for the Sunshine Coast. Jason Hicks sent the ball into the danger area, but it clipped the crossbar and went out of play.

Early in the second half, there was a

lot of wide play as both sides looked to exploit the comparatively drier turf out on the wings.

52 minutes in, the Sunshine Coast broke the deadlock through Hicks. On a quick counter-attack, Hicks rushed down the middle before sending in a low shot from outside the area that Moss reached but couldn't keep away from the back of the net.

It was 3-1 barely five minutes later, as Dylan Roberts slid a pass to Hicks who ran down to the left corner flag before sending in a low cross that Holmes bundled into the net for his second goal.

With half an hour to play and the Sunshine Coast holding a comfortable two-goal lead, Whitsunday began to drop off the pace a little, while the Fire were content to hold possession and counter when possible. For Whitsunday, Sean Hughes nearly halved the deficit when he sent in an early cross from the left flank that almost curled into the top corner, but Hall scrambled and punched it away.

As the minutes ticked down and the exertion began to show for both sides, Holmes completed his hat-trick in sterling fashion. He collected a neat diagonal pass and moved in on goal, before driving an unstoppable shot inside the left post from 18 yards to sew up a convincing 4-1 victory for the Fire, and yet another Grand Final berth against perennial rivals, the Brisbane Strikers.

Sunshine Coast coach Richard Hudson was delighted with his team's endeavour, and congratulated the Whitsunday Miners for a plucky effort in their first QSL finals series.

"After last week's disappointment, the football gods were watching us today.

SORRENTO FC

SORRENTO STATE LEAGUE CUP WINNERS

MATCH DETAILS

'Donate Blood'
State League Cup Final
Saturday 20th August 2011
Perth SC 0
Sorrento 1 (O'G - Kill Kelly 11")
Venue - Macedonia Park
Crowd - 3,000
Referee - Joe Fusari
Assistants - Josh Mihevc and Michal Jasinski
Fourth Official - David Costello

Perth SC: GK Devon Spence, 2 Trent Kay (17 Vlad Naumovski 112), 4 Craig Simpson, 5 Daniel Coletta (18 Dom De Felice 67), 6 Shaun Kilkelly, 7 Matt Danakin, 9 Dave Onoforo, 10 Andreas Oliveira, 11 Rob Scascia (21 Josh Wilkins 104), 14 Josh Pereira, 23 Greg Sharland
Substitutes Not Used: Rgk Luke Martino, 16 Matthew Izzo
Yellow Cards: Oliveira 18'

Sorrento: GK Curtis Aspden, 2 Danny Cain, 5 Jamie Harnwell, 6 Daryn Platten, 7 Jarad Love, 8 Brodie Martin (19 Adam Luca 48), 9 Todd Harmwell, 16 Jack Doyle, 18 David Price, 22 Ryan Pearson, 23 Dejan Gurovski (24 David Foster 116)
Substitutes Not Used: Rgk Todd Ross, 10 Jason Mirco, 11 Joe Alanson, Yellow Card - T.Harmwell 58'

goal!
weekly



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Gulls soar to first WA Cup Final win



Peter Simcox

Sorrento has won their first ever State League Cup Final, after they overcame Perth SC 1-0 after extra-time to win the 2011 'Donate Blood Cup Final, in front of a massive crowd at Macedonia Park on Saturday.

The winning goal came in the second period of extra time, after Jack Doyle's shot was deflected into his own net by Perth defender Shaun Kilkelly, to give The Gulls their first cup triumph in 40 years.

Sorrento skipper Todd Harnwell was delighted to finally get the win in the state's biggest showpiece. "It's been a hell of a long wait for us, and for me since I started as a 16-year-old, but it's a wonderful feeling," said Harnwell.

"We felt pretty confident going into the game, and I thought we played some of our best football we've played all season. We kept plugging away and we managed to get the goal at the death which is fantastic for our club."

Both sides came into the final after solid league wins last week. Perth, who beat league leaders Balcatta 4-0, made the one change to their starting line-up with Rob Sciascia replacing Josh Wilkins who dropped to the bench. Sorrento, who beat Armadale 3-1, also made the one change with David Price coming into the midfield to replace Adam Luca, who dropped to the bench.

It was a great day for football and with Italy's 2006 World Cup winning captain Fabio Cannavaro also in attendance, at kick off the stands were full, as close to 3,000 fans packed into Macedonia Park.

It was Sorrento who opened the brighter and on four minutes Doyle found space down the left and his cross found Brodie

Martin, who's shot from 12-yards flew over the top. Moments later David Price tried his luck from long-range but Devon Spence saved.

Perth were struggling to get their passing game going and Sorrento continued to take the game to them. Again it was Doyle who was the supplier on 24 minutes; the Irishman cut in from the left and picked out Danny Cain, whose volley from 12-yards whistled inches over the bar.

Sorrento thought they had the lead on 35 minutes. A corner from the right was flicked on by Jamie Harnwell, at the near post, the ball beat Spence but was cleared off the line by Craig Simpson, but the Sorrento players were adamant the ball had crossed the line, and they had a good case, but referee Joe Fusari waved away their protests.

Perth's best opportunity of the first half didn't come until first half stoppage-time. Sciascia ran at the Sorrento defence before releasing Trent Kay. The defender's long-range shot was palmed away by Curtis Aspden, and Greg Sharland's follow up shot was blocked, and it was scoreless at the break.

It wasn't a classic by all means, but both sides were giving their all as they looked for the opening goal. David Price's free kick, two minutes into the second half was headed back across goal by Jamie Harnwell, but Kay cleared the danger in the six-yard box.

Then moments later a surging run by Perth youngster Daniel Pereira ended with a shot from 18-yards, which Aspden saved comfortably.

Sorrento suffered a blow on 48 minutes when influential midfielder Brodie Martin limped off, he was replaced by Adam Luca. Despite this they continued to press and four minutes later Ryan Pearson, cut in from the right and his powerful shot flashed just wide of the target.

Perth were coming more into the game and on 69 minutes Greg Sharland pace took him clear down the left, he pulled the ball back to Pereira whose shot was wide of the target.

Two minutes later the crowd roared when a streaker raced onto the pitch and de-



Perth midfielder Greg Sharland and Sorrento's Brodie Martin in action at Macedonia Park. Photo: PETER SIMCOX

laid the game for two minutes as security guards chased him off.

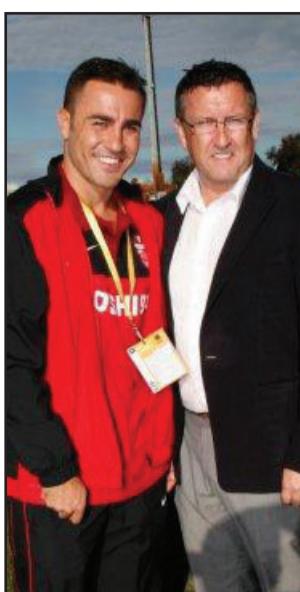
Back to the football, and it was Perth who were beginning to dictate terms. It was Sharland again on 77 minutes finding space down the right, his cross picked out David Onoforo who's fired wide from 12-yards. Moments later Kay's cross from the left found Andreas Oliveira, but the strikers shot from 10-yards was saved low by Aspden.

With time running out both sides had one last chance to win the game in normal time. Perth midfielder Sciascia slipped a through ball into the path of Oliveira, but the alert Aspden was out quick to save. Then in the last minute David Price played the ball to Dejan Gurovski down the left. The striker

cut inside Kilkelly but his shot was saved low by Spence, so it was into extra time.

It looked like it would be going to the dreaded penalty shoot-out but in the 111th minute the deadlock was finally broken. Doyle was found down the left; he cut inside and burst into the penalty area. His shot took a wicked deflection off Kilkelly and in doing so beat Spence, the ball rolled into the corner of the net, much to the delight of the Sorrento faithful.

It was a bitter blow for the Perth defender who had been outstanding all afternoon, but Perth threw players forward looking for the equaliser and they had one last chance in the final minute. Everyone was up for the Sharland's corner, including keeper Spence, the delivery was inch



Fabian Cannavaro with Football West CEO Peter Hugg. Photo: EDUARDO MORGAN DEL CASTILLO

perfect but Craig Simpson's header at the back post crashed off the post and away to safety, and at the final whistle it was Sorrento celebrating their first cup final win since they were formed in 1971.

Coach Paul Price, who had been feeling unwell with a virus, was delighted for his players. "The players did fantastically well today. I thought we were the better side on the day, dominated possession and created the better chances. Perth is a good side, but today I thought we deserved to win it," said Price.

"We've defended well all season and we've started to knock a few goals in recent weeks which is pleasing. We only got the one today, but we got the ball into a dangerous area and got the reward."

Donate Blood State League Cup Final

Perth SC 0
Sorrento 1 (O'G - Kilkelly 111')
Saturday 20 August 2011
Venue - Macedonia Park
Crowd - 3,000
Referee - Joe Fusari
Assistants - Josh Milhevc and Michal Jasinski
Fourth Official - David Costello

Perth SC: GK Devon Spence, 2 Trent Kay (17 Vlad Naumovski 112'), 4 Craig Simpson, 5 Daniel Coletta (18 Dom De Felice 67), 6 Shaun Kilkelly, 7 Matt Danskin, 9 Dave Onoforo, 10 Andreas Oliveira, 11 Rob Sciascia (21 Josh Wilkins 104'), 14 Josh Pereira, 23 Greg Sharland
Substitutes Not Used: Rgk Luke Martino, 16 Matthew Izzo
Yellow Cards - Oliveira 18'

Sorrento: GK Curtis Aspden, 2 Danny Cain, 5 Jamie Harnwell, 6 Daryl Platten, 7 Jarad Love, 8 Brodie Martin (19 Adam Luca 48), 9 Todd Harnwell, 16 Jack Doyle, 18 David Price, 22 Ryan Pearson, 23 Dejan Gurovski (24 David Foster 116) Substitutes Not Used: Rgk Todd Ross, 10 Jason Mirco, 11 Joe Allanson, Yellow Card - T.Harnwell 58'

Next Round

Inglewood United v Bayswater City
6PR Stadium 3:00 PM Sat 27/Aug
Armadale SC v Western Knights
Alfred Skeet Reserve 3:00 PM Sat 27/Aug
Perth SC v Cockburn City
BGC Stadium 3:00 PM Sat 27/Aug
Balcatta SC v Sorrento FC
Grindelford Reserve 3:00 PM Sat 27/Aug
Mandurah City v NTC
Hyundai Stadium 3:00 PM Sat 27/Aug
Stirling Lions v Floreat Athena FC
Macedonia Park 3:00 PM Sun 28/Aug
BYE v ECU Joondalup

All Flags WA Premier League

	P	W	D	L	For	Ag	GD	Pts
1 Balcatta	20	16	0	4	49	19	30	48
2 Perth SC	20	12	1	7	39	29	10	37
3 Sorrento	20	10	5	5	33	25	8	35
4 Western Knights	20	9	5	6	32	29	3	32
5 Inglewood United	20	9	4	7	45	36	9	31
6 Bayswater City	21	8	7	6	40	37	3	31
7 Stirling Lions	20	8	3	9	37	37	0	27
8 Floreat Athena	20	7	5	8	34	35	-1	26
9 ECU Joondalup	22	8	2	12	27	42	-15	26
10 Armadale	20	7	2	11	33	41	-8	23
11 Mandurah City	21	5	4	12	30	21	-11	19
12 Cockburn City	20	3	2	15	25	53	-28	11

ACT Results

Canberra City 0 Belconnen 5 (Dustin Wells 15', Nicky Rogers 50', Lee Pietrkowski 62', Ryan Jones 76', 90+2)

Woden Valley 0 Cooma Tigers 5 (Josifovski 19', Elliot 35', Wilk 77' (pen), Munoz 80', Bircan 84')

Tuggeranong United 0 Canberra FC 1 (Ian Grahame)

Goulburn Strikers 1 (Jason Dinsmore 45')
Canberra Olympic 7 (Wiederkehr 20', 73', Tanoski 34', Sgouros 45', Deeley 54', 64', 71')

Next Round

Cooma SC v Goulburn Strikers
Nijong Oval
3:00 PM Sun 28/Aug

Canberra Olympic v Canberra City
O'Connor Enclosed
3:00 PM Sun 28/Aug

Monaro v TUFC
Riverside Stadium
3:00 PM Sun 28/Aug

Woden Valley v Canberra FC
Hawker Football Centre
4:00 PM Sun 28/Aug

BYE v Belconnen United

ACT Standings

	P	W	D	L	For	Ag	GD	Pts
1 Canberra FC	15	13	0	2	73	20	+53	39
2 Canberra Olympic	15	12	2	1	59	17	+42	38
3 Belconnen United	16	9	3	4	53	30	+23	29
4 Canberra City	15	7	3	5	45	24	+31	27
5 Cooma Tigers	15	7	1	7	36	42	-1	22
6 Woden Valley	15	4	4	7	46	34	+12	16
7 Monaro Panthers	15	4	3	8	30	34	-4	15
8 Tuggeranong United	15	3	3	9	24	39	-15	12
9 Goulburn Strikers	15	0	0	15	7	148	-141	0

LEADING SCORERS

24 Dustin WELLS (Belconnen United)

16 Mark SHIELDS (Monaro Panthers)

14 Misko NAUMOSKI (Canberra City), Paul IVANIC (Canberra FC)

13 Alex OLORIEGBE (Woden Valley)

12 Domenic GIAMPAOLO (Canberra Olympic), Victor YANES (Canberra FC)



Thomas Castleton



Goran Josifovski opens the scoring for Cooma sliding the ball past Nick Nelson. Photo: NICK GUOTH



Victor Yanes (99 Canberra FC) holds off Sean Kiddy with Sam Turner (2) arriving to assist. Photo: NICK GUOTH

Round 17 of the Rock Premier League saw all four away team victorious in a weekend that still has not settled the minor premiership. Belconnen United secured a top four spot on Saturday when they downed Canberra City 5-0 at Hawker Football Centre.

It was the ideal way for Steve Forshaw and his Blue Devils side to finish the season, as they proved too strong for fellow top four contenders City on the day. Belconnen from the outset looked to dominate in the midfield and they allowed City no time on the ball as City failed to play their free moving football out wide.

In the 15th minute there was controversy as City's James Perry took down Callum Beaton inside the area to award Belconnen with a penalty. Dustin Wells stepped up to slot home his twenty-eighth goal of the season, as he looks set to take out the golden boot for the Rock Premier League 2011 season. That was to be the only first half goal as it finished 1-0 at the break.

Michael Reeve, Dustin Wells, and Nicky Rogers were in control up front and in the 50th minute Rogers found the back of the net. Belconnen's third came when a Simon Gemmell clearance went high up into the sky as Belconnen were able to bring the ball under control inside the box for Lee Pietrukowski to slam it into the net. Substitute Ryan Jones put Belconnen into a controlling position in the 76th minute when he intercepted a Rob Perry pass and made no mistake in putting it past City goalkeeper James Ward. Jones wrapped up the win in injury time with a nicely timed right

foot shot from 20 yards out as the ball sailed into the right of the goal. City will now need a win against title contenders Canberra Olympic next weekend if they want to play in September.

A Robbie Deeley hat trick has helped Canberra Olympic stay just one point behind Canberra FC as they put seven past Goulburn at O'Connor on Sunday. Goulburn had to move their home fixture to Olympics home ground of O'Connor due to rain closing Cookbundoon but Goulburn did manage to find the net in their second last hit out of the year.

Olympics ran the second-half as Robbie Deeley scored his hat trick within 17 minutes, with his goals coming in the 54th, 64th and 71st minute. Wiederkehr finished off a top performance with a second goal in the 73rd to end the match 7-1 and leave Olympic within reach of the title.

Over at the Royal Military College, Cooma have moved one point out of the top four with a 5-0 win over Woden Valley. Despite the result it was a tough fought encounter between the two

sides. Goran Josifovski handed Cooma the early advantage when the Tigers went on the counter. Marcial Munoz lead the attack and fed the ball to Josifovski's feet, as he was able to beat one defender and score on his second attempt 19 minutes in. Cooma's lead was doubled ten minutes from half time when Munoz's pass left Iain Elliot facing Woden's keeper Jack Pettit as he lofted the ball goalwards to give Cooma a two goal advantage at the break.

It was a tight midfield affair and in the 77th minute Jair Wilk received a through ball from Munoz and was taken down inside the box by a Woden defender to give Cooma a penalty. Wilk converted the resultant penalty and three minutes later Munoz scored on the rebound after an Adrien Labutte bicycle kick was denied by the woodwork. Cooma buried Woden in the 84th minute

when Serdan Bircan gave Cooma an unassailable five goal lead with just six minutes left.

The win now leaves Cooma within touching distance of Canberra City in fourth spot as the last week of the Rock Premier League shapes up to be a very interesting final weekend.

In the final match of the round, Canberra FC travelled to Kambah and came out on top in a very tightly contested 1-0 win against Tuggeranong United as they stay top of the table.

Canberra FC got their only goal through Ian Grahame as Tuggeranong United struggled to convert their chances as they pushed the current champions all the way. Canberra FC now sits on top and will need a win to confirm their spot on the table and win the minor premiership for the 2011 season.

WESTERN STRIKERS



Match Details

Western Strikers 1 (Jordan Spadavecchia) v Adelaide Blue Eagles 1 (Kym Harris) (HT 1-1) (AET 1-1)

Western Strikers won 6-5 on penalties

Best - Western Strikers: Ermias Haile, Callam Flanagan, Yasmine Sudic, Chris Annicchiarico, Gino De Lucia

Western Strikers: I Takumi Takahashi, 2 Tommas Maricic, 3 Daniele Lastella, 4 Michele Lastella (C), 5 Joseph Ciarla, 6 Ambesager Sium Yosief, 7 Chahine Noujaim, 9 Callam Flanagan, 10 Michael Russo, 11 Adrian D'Alfonso, 12 Yasmine Sudic, 13 Adrian D'Alfonso, 15 Samuel Tesfagab, 14 Stephen McNeill, 16 Sunjin Julardzija, 17 Steven Stefanopoulos, 18 Calvin Mbarga, 20 Ermias Haile, 21 Jordan Spadavecchia, Rgk Lindsay Paterson

Adelaide Blue Eagles: I Gino De Lucia (C), 4 Christopher Atsikbasis, 5 Christopher Annicchiarico, 7 Evan Kounavelis, 8 Nicholas Bucco, 9 Fortunato Filletti, 10 Chad Bugeja, 11 Johnny Giannitto, 12 Adam Vizzari, 18 Kym Harris, 19 Ian Kanau, 21 Damien Crettenden, 23 Dean Kendrick, 13 Lucas Andreucci (RGK)

South Australia Federation Cup Winners 2011

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Prospect Knights win first title in 52 years



Walter Pless

Prospect Knights beat Devonport City 3-2 at Prospect Park on Saturday on the final day of the league season to win their first Forestry Tasmania Northern Premier League title in 52 years.

Two goals by Ben Crosswell and one by Matthew Sessay sank Devonport, who trailed 2-0 and for whom Chris McKenna netted both goals.

The result meant that outgoing champions Northern Rangers finished second despite overcoming the visiting Ulverstone 2-0 at the NTCA Ground through goals by Andrew Nicholson and Toff Hingston.

In other northern matches, bottom-side Launceston United failed to get a first win of the season when they succumbed 5-3 at home at Birch Avenue to Somerset.

Riverside Olympic trounced Burnie United 6-2 away at Montello.

In the Forestry Tasmania Southern Premier League, champions South Hobart went down 3-1 away to second-last Olympia Warriors at Warrior Park in a game that kicked off 45 minutes late, in part because Olympia's two Melbourne fly-ins had been delayed by fog at Melbourne Airport.

When Jake Van Der Mey and Joshua Colosimo arrived, they raced straight onto the pitch for a brief warm-up with their team-mates before the game began.

It was only the second defeat of the season for South Hobart and it came on the last day of the league season. Next



Olympia's Kosta Grillas (left) causes problems for South Hobart's Will Ross and Luke Huigslot (No. 3).

Photo: WALTER PLESS

weekend, they face Ulverstone, who finished fourth in the north, in the top-four finals series.

Olympia's two diminutive strikers, Kosta Grillas and Omar Shabaneh, tormented the South Hobart defence and Shabaneh netted a hat-trick, with two assists from Grillas.

Shabaneh's first came in the 24th minute, while three minutes later, he made it 2-0 after South Hobart were caught in possession at the back.

Ben Phillips and Chris Kumpulainen had also gone close for Olympia, while South had half-chances that fell to Shae Hickey and Andy Brennan.

Eight minutes after the resumption, Shabaneh controlled a long, high ball out of defence by Van Der Mey and held off Hugh Ludford before beating Sam Kruijver from the edge of the

box.

South then squandered great chances that fell to Brennan, Luke Huigslot and Nick Falco before Brennan pulled a goal back with 8 minutes remaining when he out-ran Ven Der Mey on the right and belted a splendid shot across the keeper and inside the far left-hand post.

The match ended with Olympia keeper Jason Voss turning Liam Scott's free-kick, which he saw late, out for a fruitless corner.

"I think it was a good game to watch, especially for Olympia, but not so much for South Hobart. South Hobart didn't have much to play for. I would have used this game for preparation for the finals, definitely. Ken has to expect something from the way we played today from other teams because that was

one of the ways to beat them.

"We tried to isolate one or two at the back and make sure the fullbacks were not overlapping that much. We were winning the ball to hit the space in there and it happened. We could have scored another three or four, probably. "I was happy with the win, put it that way. We finished on a high note. It's good.

South Hobart coach, Ken Morton, said: "Credit to Olympia. They've come out and played with great desperation and great courage. They've battered us right around the ground and they won all the individual battles and they thoroughly deserved their day. Congratulations to them.

"The football we played today at times was excellent. We scored one good goal and we had situations where we

Top Four Series

Forestry Tasmania Final Series

Round 1

Saturday 27th August 2011

South Hobart v Ulverstone
Prospect Knights v New Town Eagles
Tilford Zebras v Devonport City
Northern Rangers v Clarence United

Tasmania Results

Southern Premier League
Olympia F Warriors 3 South Hobart 1
Beachside 2 Tilford Zebras 4
Clarence United 3 New Town Eagles 3
Kingborough Lions 5 Glenorchy Knights 1

Northern Premier League
Burnie United 2 Riverside Olympic 6
Launceston United 3 Somerset 5
Northern Rangers 2 Ulverstone 0
Prospect Knights 3 Devonport City 2

Northern Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Prospect Knights	16	13	1	2	48	14	40
Northern Rangers	16	13	1	2	44	17	40
Devonport City	16	12	0	4	60	25	36
Ulverstone	16	7	1	8	29	28	22
Somerset	16	7	0	9	34	42	21
Riverside Olympic	16	6	2	8	28	38	20
Launceston City	16	4	4	8	26	33	16
Burnie United	16	5	1	10	32	46	16
Launceston United	16	0	0	16	26	83	0

Southern Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Hobart	21	16	3	2	77	22	51
Tilford Zebras	21	11	7	3	65	40	40
Clarence United	21	9	8	4	42	45	35
New Town Eagles	21	7	8	5	42	40	30
Kingborough Lions	21	9	2	10	42	47	29
Glenorchy Knights	21	5	5	11	31	51	20
Olympia Warriors	21	5	4	12	34	53	19
Beachside	21	1	4	16	22	57	7

ers host Clarence United in a straight knock-out round.

University won promotion to the Premier League by taking out the Southern League One title with a 3-1 win over Nelson Eastern Suburbs.

Myles Barnard scored twice and Nigel Blundell once for the Students, while Adam Mills netted Nelson's consolation goal.

In other League One matches, Metro succumbed 3-2 at home to Southern FC at North Chigwell, while a goal by David Hoppitt gave Tarroona a 1-0 win over Hobart United.

Western Strikers Triumph In Federation Cup



A big Adelaide crowd turns up to watch the Coca-Cola Federation Cup Final. Photo: ADAM BUTLER



Jordan Spadavecchia pounces on the loose ball to score for Western Strikers. Photo: ADAM BUTLER

FFSA Results

COCA-COLA FEDERATION CUP FINALS
Saturday August 20

Western Strikers 1 (Jordan Spadavecchia v Adelaide Blue Eagles 1 (Kym Harris) (HT 1-1) (AET 1-1) **Western Strikers won 6-5 on penalties

Best - Western Strikers: Ermias Haile, Callam Flanagan, Yasmin Sudic; Adelaide Blue Eagles: Chris Atsikasis, Chris Annichiarico, Gino De Lucia

Reserves:

Adelaide Olympic 0 v Salisbury United 1 (Cameron Brown)
U19: Modbury 0 v MetroStars 1 (Terry Theodorou)

Devine Men's Leagues

DEVINE PREMIER LEAGUE - Round 18
Saturday August 20

Reserves - Adelaide Cobras 0 v Cumberland United 3
U19 - Adelaide Cobras 1 v Cumberland United 5

DEVINE STATE LEAGUE - Round 16
Saturday August 20

Reserves - West Adelaide 2 v Northern Demons 2
U19 - West Adelaide 3 v Northern Demons 1

Next Week

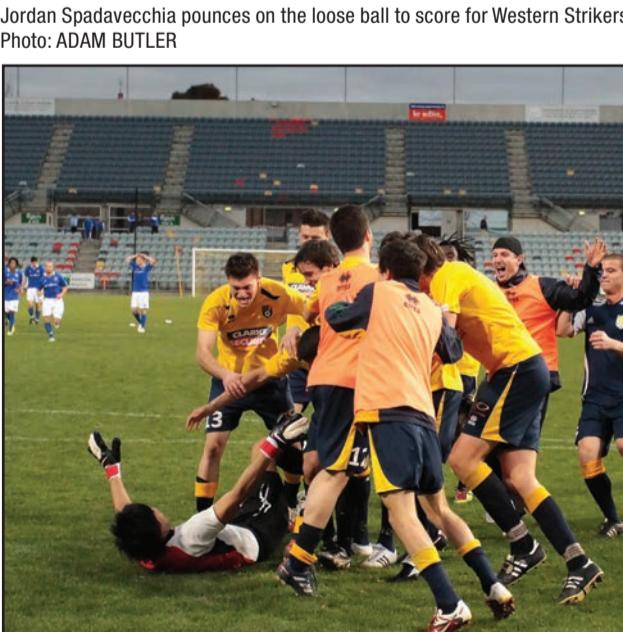
Qualifying Final
Sat 27/Aug KO 2:30 PM

Adelaide City vs
Adelaide Blue Eagles
Adelaide City Park

Elimination Final
Sun 28/Aug KO 2:30 PM
Western Strikers vs
Adelaide Galaxy
Carnegie Reserve

Final Standings

	P	W	D	L	For	Ag	GD	Pts
1 Metro Stars	18	14	2	4	48	12	36	44
2 Adelaide City	18	13	4	1	46	15	31	43
3 Adel Blue Eagles	18	10	3	5	23	19	4	33
4 Western Strikers	18	8	3	7	22	19	3	27
5 Adelaide Galaxy	18	7	4	7	25	20	5	25
6 Campbelltown	18	6	3	9	17	21	-4	21
7 Raiders	18	5	3	10	24	30	-6	18
8 Croydon	18	3	6	9	11	26	-15	15
9 Para Hills	18	3	4	11	12	31	-19	13
10 Modbury	18	3	4	11	18	49	-31	13



Western Strikers keeper Takumi Takahashi is the shoot-out hero. Photo: ADAM BUTLER

The Bees are abuzz with three 'Roos in their Bonnet



Be my guest: Former Socceroos Craig Moore, Joe Spiteri and Danny Tiatto lead out promotion chasing Werribee City with mascots in hand on Saturday.

Photo: LYNNE REVELL

Saturday's State League North West 2 League encounter between top of the table Werribee City and fourth placed Brunswick City was always going to be an intriguing contest.

With Werribee looking to cement top spot and move a step closer to promotion, head coach Nino Ragusa had the luxury of introducing ex-Socceroo captain Craig Moore into his defence for a one game guest appearance.

Moore was just one former Socceroo lining up for The Bees in this fixture, with Danny Tiatto and Joe Spiteri pulling on the boots each week with their local side.

A large crowd descended upon Galvin Reserve, with approximately 500 in attendance to witness three greats of the game in recent history.

No doubt all associated with the Werribee City Soccer Club would have been pleased with the turn-out.

Visitors Brunswick City however forgot to read the script, and almost opened the scoring in the opening half with only the cross bar denying them the opening goal. Werribee looked dangerous when in possession, but lacked any venom in the final third with Captain Martin Collins and Joe Spiteri failing to test the Brunswick City keeper.

The match sprung to life midway through the second half, as some hard challenges in particular from Danny Tiatto sparked a melee between the players. The visitors seemed to lose their cool, and The Bees took advantage on the hour mark. Brian Chesson weaved past two players before finding youngster Simon Zappia unmarked in the penalty area

who made no mistake from close range.

Joe Spiteri almost doubled that lead shortly afterwards only to be denied by a fantastic save by the visiting keeper. However, the former Melbourne Knights' striker wouldn't have to wait long to get his goal, and a fast counter from the home side saw Spiteri beat his marker and finish off the inside of the post from an acute angle.

Brunswick to their credit, didn't give in and pulled a goal back immediately from kick-off due to an incredible solo effort to make it a nervy final ten minutes for the home side.

There is no replacement for experience however, as Craig Moore and Danny Tiatto expertly marshalled the home defence, clearing anything and everything that Brunswick City could throw at them.

After surviving some nervous moments in the final stages of the match, the referee blew the final whistle and three more vital points were secured by the home side as they make a strong claim for promotion with only three games left in the 2011 season.

Although the match was over, there was still plenty of action off the field, as the trio happily posed for photos and signed autographs for fans, young and old.

Werribee City Soccer Club would like to officially thank Danny Tiatto, Frank Tiatto and 'G-Force People @ Work', for all their help in organising this successful event, and of course to Craig Moore.

I would also like to thank the nice people at Werribee City soccer club and in par-

ticular coach Nino Ragusa for their great hospitality and access behind the scenes.

Why Werribee?

Joe Spiteri: I'm a local lad and Werribee had been asking me for some time to come down. The opportunity came for me to become a football director here, and help develop the juniors at this club. I currently run a Football Academy here for the juniors.

Danny Tiatto: My Junior Club. Craig Moore: Great mates with Tiatto, when he asked if I would like to come and give a helping hand to Werribee, I couldn't pass up the opportunity.

Earliest Football Memory?

Joe Spiteri: Under 5's at Green Gully, I actually started as a Goalkeeper, but that obviously didn't last long.

Danny Tiatto: Playing for Werribee Juniors.

Craig Moore: Watching the 1986 World Cup, never seen a player dominate a tournament like Maradona.

Favourite Team Growing Up?

Joe Spiteri: Liverpool

Danny Tiatto: AC Milan

Craig Moore: Liverpool, only because of Craig Johnston

Favourite Player of All Time?

Joe Spiteri: Ian Rush

Danny Tiatto: Maradona

Craig Moore: Maradona

Favourite Socceroos' Memory?

Joe Spiteri: My first game, away to Argentina in front of 60 000 fans.

Danny Tiatto: Winning my first cap.

Craig Moore: Against Croatia in the World Cup. The turning point in Australian football, the great achievement of reaching the knock-out stages of the

World Cup after such a long absence.

Highlight of your Club Career?

Joe Spiteri: Playing NSL with the Melbourne Knights

Danny Tiatto: Playing with Man City and beating Man Utd in the last game at Maine Road.

Craig Moore: Winning twelve trophies with Rangers.

Highlight of your International Career?

Joe Spiteri: That Argentina game.

Danny Tiatto: Every game I've played.

Craig Moore: Australia v Croatia.

Most Memorable Game?

Joe Spiteri: Australia v Japan Olympics

Danny Tiatto: Winning futsal last week 6-5

Craig Moore: Cup final against Celtic, coming from behind to win the cup.

Most Memorable Goal?

Joe Spiteri: Every goal I score is always a good feeling.

Danny Tiatto: Against Melbourne Victory couple years ago.

Craig Moore: Penalty against Croatia.

Worst Injury?

Joe Spiteri: Fractured Foot twice!

Danny Tiatto: Broken jaw, thanks to a mistimed punch from Mark Schwartz.

Craig Moore: Was out for 15 months with a knee injury.

Biggest Drag in Football?

Joe Spiteri: Injuries

Danny Tiatto: Injuries

Craig Moore: People who mouth off at games. You really need thick skin to play this game.

Hardest Opponent (Club):

Joe Spiteri: Playing State league with Kingston City, every game was tough, Stonnington was one that stands out.

Danny Tiatto: Playing against Barcelona in a friendly for Manchester City's first game in their new stadium.

Craig Moore: My Introduction to the Champions League, Ajax and Juventus.

Hardest Opponent (Player):

Joe Spiteri: Alex Tobin.

Danny Tiatto: Ronaldinho.

Craig Moore: Mark Overmars, all I remember from playing against him is the back of his boots.

Pre-match Superstitions?

Joe Spiteri: Never change a winning routine.

Danny Tiatto: None

Craig Moore: None

Funniest Teammate?

Joe Spiteri: Danny Tiatto

Danny Tiatto: Joe Batcha

Craig Moore: Ally McCloist & Paul Gascoigne

Who would you say had the most ability out of the three of you?

Joe Spiteri: Danny

Danny Tiatto: Myself

Craig Moore: Danny

What does the future hold?

Joe Spiteri: Hopefully promotion for Werribee, and keep developing juniors in the Academy.

Danny Tiatto: Continue Playing for Werribee.

Craig Moore: Time will tell.

Funniest Rumour you have heard about yourself?

Joe Spiteri: Unsure

Danny Tiatto: That I'm a clean player.

Craig Moore: That I was an investor in Brisbane Roar

Tell me something about yourself that other's wouldn't know?

Joe Spiteri: University Degree in Business Computing.

Danny Tiatto: That off the pitch I'm actually a quiet, normal bloke.

Craig Moore: Umm.. That I've only got one testicle.....(I don't think he was joking readers....)

Any Regrets?

Joe Spiteri: Leaving Sturm Graz

Danny Tiatto: None

Craig Moore: Don't regret anything in life.

Advice for youngsters?

Joe Spiteri: Enjoy the game.

Danny Tiatto: Always give 100%

Craig Moore: Plenty.....

What does the future hold?

Joe Spiteri: Hopefully promotion for Werribee, and keep developing juniors in the Academy.

Danny Tiatto: Continue Playing for Werribee.

Craig Moore: Time will tell.

Danny Tiatto: added that he would like to personally thank Craig Moore for agreeing to come out and play for his local club.

Many thanks to Joe, Danny and Craig for spending the time with Andrew Fisher to answer a few questions for Goal! Weekly.

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Accies say aye to Andrew MacLean

MACKENZIE AT LARGE

With Craig MacKenzie

ANDREW MacLean has agreed a one-year deal with Scottish First Division club Hamilton Academicals.

The 18-year-old defender was made the offer by Accies manager Billy Reid two weeks ago after a three-week trial.

During that time he played four games and ironically it was his final hit-out at Murray Park against his beloved Glasgow Rangers that clinched the deal.

Rangers supremo Ally McCoist and assistant Kenny McDowell were at that trial match as was Reid with the Accies boss making the offer the next day.

"Andrew says that was the best he'd played during the trial. In fact he said that that was the best he'd ever played," said his dad, Rothmans Medal and Bill Fleming Medal winner Jim MacLean, a former Morton and Sunderland midfielder who enjoyed a celebrated career here after arriving in 1981 to play for Brisbane Lions in the National Soccer League.

Andrew MacLean's career kicked off at Eastern Lions when he was five years old. He had a couple of seasons there before switching to Port Melbourne for a similar length of time then returning to Eastern Lions.

His second spell at the club saw him come under the coaching guidance of former Green Gully star Billy Morrey.

That stint at under-13 and under-14 levels played an important part in MacLean's development because Morrey had great belief in the teenager and always encouraged him.

Next season he was part of Don McLaren's all-conquering Green Gully under-15 side and was selected to represent Victoria by state coach John Campbell.

"His time with Donnie was Andrew's introduction to winning everything. It was a big learning curve for him," said Jim MacLean.

Andrew MacLean also was selected in a squad put together by former Mooroolbark star Ian Williamson to play in a junior tournament in Singapore and at that tournament he was offered a trial with English Premier League club Fulham.

Suddenly the youngster was a wanted man. He was offered a

trial at the Victorian Institute of Sport after previously being overlooked but he declined.

His two weeks at Fulham gave him important feedback regarding the fitness levels required. Fulham never queried his ability though.

MacLean returned to Australia and joined Richmond where his father was now on the coaching staff.

He debuted for the under-21s when he was 16 and last season won their player of the year award. By now he'd made the switch from midfield to defence. Although he trained with the senior squad, Richmond's 2010 minor premiership success suggested that he may find game time in the firsts hard come by this year.

"I thought that his opportunity of getting into the starting line was slim and I felt that he'd only go backwards if he kept playing in the under-21s. I suggested to him that he needed to play against men," said Jim MacLean.

His son agreed. Eddie Krnecic alerted North Geelong coach Vinko Buljubasic who took a liking to the youngster immediately and MacLean signed with the Croatian-backed club for the 2011 season.

But things started to unravel for MacLean when North Geelong controversially sacked Buljubasic prior to the start of this season, replacing him with Ante Skoko.

Some committemen wanted Skoko to release the "Melbourne contingent" among the playing staff and MacLean jumped before he was pushed.

He joined Brunswick City where senior coach Tony Ciantar quickly became an admirer.

"As soon as he got here you could see that his skill and technique were brilliant," said Ciantar.

"He's the full package as far as I'm concerned. I just felt that he needed to work on his fitness."

Jim MacLean was delighted with his son's progress at Brunswick City and the youngster was keen to head back overseas for more trials.

Initially MacLean trialled with Morton when he arrived in Scotland but only lasted 20 minutes before suffering a groin injury.

He recovered from that setback and has now grasped his chance at New Douglas Park with both



Andrew MacLean in action for Victoria at the 2008 national championships.

hands.

"It's up to him now to continue his progress," said Jim MacLean. "I'm really happy for him because he's found someone over there other than his father who has some belief in him."

Get well soon, Ernie

FORMER South Melbourne Hellas striker Ernie Ackerley is undergoing treatment in Monash Clayton's renal ward.

The 67-year-old former Manchester United and Barrow player starred with Hellas in the 1960s and early 1970s.

Ackerley was visited last week by another Hellas great, Jim Armstrong.

Visiting hours are from 2 to 8 pm and anyone wishing to visit Ackerley should phone the renal ward beforehand on 9594 3468 to check on his availability (due to treatment) on the day.

New King of Hearts

CHARLIE King will take a step closer to becoming a professional footballer when he starts training officially with Melbourne Heart's inaugural national youth league squad next month.

The Ballarat teenager was one of over 500 hopefuls who made their way to a series of open youth trials over the past few weeks and King impressed from the outset.

"The whole process was quite exciting and Charlie caught our eye immediately," said Heart's general manager of football operations, John Didulica.

So much so that King was one of 10 youngsters given the thumbs up by Heart a fortnight back although the Melbourne franchise is waiting on paperwork from Football Federation Australia before formalising the signings and registering the youngsters.

King's mother is from Tanzania, his father is Australian. The youngster was born in Tanzania and arrived here as a nine-year-old.

He joined Ballarat Red Devils in 2009 and made his senior debut last year.

"He's an outstanding young man," said Red Devils CEO Andrew Burgess.

"He's very level headed and very mature as a footballer. We're hopeful that he can progress at Melbourne Heart and maybe go even further."

King's excitement was discernible when GW spoke to him late last week.

"It was very, very professional, really well run," said the 18-year-old of his recent Heart experience.

"I'd like to play to my best and try and break into the senior team one day. That's my goal."

That goal is shared by Heart ac-



Soon-to-be Melbourne Heart whiz-kid Charlie King.
Photo courtesy Ballarat Red Devils.

cording to a recent interview Didulica gave to Ballarat newspaper The Courier.

"We recruited players we think will one day be in an A-League team and Charlie is an example of that," he said.

"He has great speed and ability and with the right coaching will step up very quickly."

One thing that may not happen so quickly, however, is Heart deciding whether or not it will be involved in the Victorian Training Centre model much favoured by Football Federation Victoria and Melbourne Victory.

As I write an announcement is pending on the combined positions of head coach of the VTC and Victory youth coach, positions that were previously held by new Victory coaching supremo Mehmet Durakovic.

The VTC is funded by Victory, FFV and FFA and from an FFV perspective Heart would be welcomed with open arms.

"Our door's always open and we talk to John (Didulica) regularly," said FFV's talented player development manager Les Bee.

"Although Heart is not yet involved we still talk frequently to both (A-League) clubs and we offer the same services to both."

Heart's reticence in part is based on caution. The club acknowledges the efforts of the authorities in developing a national pathway

for players but it is yet to decide how to integrate itself into that structure and at what age group it becomes involved in talent identification.

It also does not want to lose the common touch, a charge that rightly or wrongly is regularly levelled at Victory.

"We are very keen to integrate with and work closely with lots of local clubs," said Didulica.

"We believe strongly that players from Noble Park, Seaford United, Northcote and South Melbourne should all have an opportunity of playing for Melbourne Heart."

Hodgson's proud legacy

FORMER Victorian Soccer Federation president John Hodgson died last week, aged 70.

Hodgson chaired the Metropolitan Leagues Management Committee in the early 1980s and became a life member of the federation in 1999. He also served on the board of the Australian Soccer Federation.

A towering man with forthright views on the game, Hodgson also had a distinguished period as president of Frankston Pines. He was an icon of the game in his time, much like his son Doug is now.

A funeral service will be held at 10.30 am on Friday at John Alison Monkhouse, 30 Frankston-Flinders Road, Frankston.

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Dynamic Night at Dinamo



The judges crown Amalia Stefancic as 2011 Miss Dinamo with runner-up Adriana Rastocic.

A sell out Miss St Albans Saints Dinamo pageant, saw two beautiful young ladies, Amalia Stefancic and Adriana Rastocic, compete for the honour of being crowned Miss Dinamo 2011.

Adriana 18 years of age, and Amalia, 17, were both stylishly lead onto the stage by two strapping young gentleman, Anthony Topic and Steven Pavlovic respectively. Once on the front stage, the two ladies were introduced to the respectful panel of judges, Joe Kovacevic, Kathy Filipovic and Josip Panic, by the elegantly dressed MC Ivana Rastocic.

The panel then proceeded to ask questions in both English and Croatian. Adriana spoke passionately about her love for sport and in particular soccer and surfing, whilst pledging to promote club and the Croatian community.

Similarly, Amalia spoke graciously about wanting the opportunity to represent the club and community and attempting to make

others aware of the Croatian culture.

Post the questions, both ladies were then given the task of selling raffle tickets whilst the judges deliberated and band (4 Kuma) began to play some traditional Croatian music. With a packed dance floor the two contestants managed to sell all the tickets in record time.

Once the band finished their stint, it was time to present the St Albans Saints seniors and U/21 players with their trophies. The U/21s were first off the rank with goal keeper Frano Saric winning runner-up best and fairest and young gun Daniel Dragovic taking out the best and fairest for 2011.

Next were the seniors, where the 2011 Jozo Jovic trophy (for the top goal scorer) was decided by one goal, scored in the final match of the season, giving the clubs quality young striker Daniel Visevic the honour of winning the title.

Then it was time to announce the 2011 Micky Colina award (given to the best and fairest). The nominations were Daniel Visevic, Neven Antic, Steven Pavlovic and Tomi Milardovic, with one of the clubs favourite sons Tomi Milardovic taking out the honour.

With the guests patiently waiting, it was time to announce the winner of the 2011

By Josip Jutrisa

Miss Dinamo. With the anticipation building, the judges proclaimed that both girls were worthy of the title, however, only one could be crowned the 2011 Miss Dinamo.

In the end Amalia Stefancic won the title of Miss Dinamo by the narrowest of margins. Former Miss Dinamo and Miss Croatia (Australia / New Zealand) Marina Kasalo handed over the crown to clubs new Miss Dinamo. Club president, Danny Jutrisa, congratulate both contestants and wished Amalia Stefancic, all the best at the next Miss Croatia (Australia / New Zealand), which will be held in Sydney later this year.

It was then time to present all the major sponsors with a token of appreciation. Each major sponsor, I&D Constructions, Carton Finishing, Cancar Constructions, Dinamo Motors, Kasalo Steel Fixing, The Pool Place and Blue Thunder Security, were all given a plaque and a 2011 jersey.

The club president then went on to thank all the guests and in particular guests from other sister clubs, Melbourne Knights and Dandenong City. Following this final presentation it was time for some fun. The band got back on stage and played out the night. Overall it was a successful night leaving patrons wanting more.



B&F nominee Neven Antic



B&F winner Tomislav Milardovic with Saints president Danny Jutrisa and Mick Colina



The club's major sponsor Mr Filipovic addresses the Saints guests.



2011 Miss Dinamo Amalia Stefancic with 2009 winner Marina Kasalo



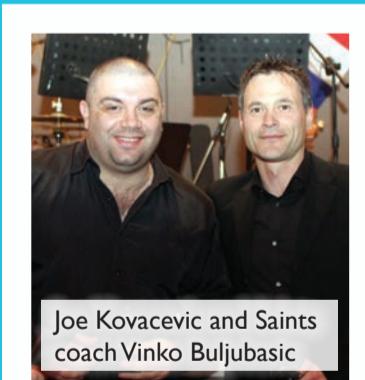
The Saints girls light up the night at the Miss Dinamo Awards.



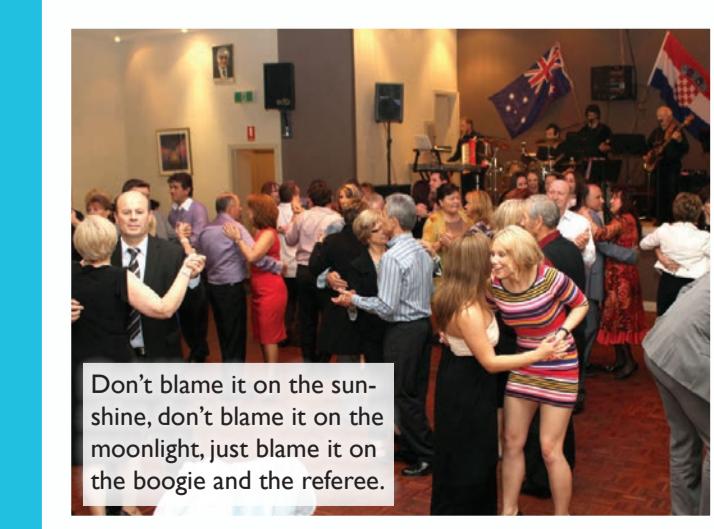
Top scorer Daniel Visevic with B&F winner Tomislav Milardovic.



The Saints Under 21s line up.



Joe Kovacevic and Saints coach Vinko Buljubasic



Don't blame it on the sunshine, don't blame it on the moonlight, just blame it on the boogie and the referee.



The Kasalo table enjoy the evening.



Ivana Rastocic and Marina Kasalo.

Knights Overcome Gully In Mirabella Cup Pool



Robert Di Fabio

The Victorian state-wide knockout competition ventured onwards last week, amid two Mirabella Cup fixtures coming into fruition. On Wednesday night the final Pool B match witnessed former NSL champions Melbourne Knights play hosting rights against the reigning VPL champions Green Gully Cavaliers. Meanwhile, on Sunday the Pool A encounter saw the State League One bound Springvale White Eagles lock horns with Northcote City.

Melbourne Knights 1-0 Green Gully Cavaliers at Knights Stadium

The Melbourne Knights have cemented their place in the Semi-Finals of the Mirabella Cup by recording a gratifying 1-0 victory over current VPL minor premiers Green Gully Cavaliers at Knights Stadium. Brandon Zezovski's wonder strike in the opening minutes ultimately proved to be difference in sealing the win. The beautifully crafted goal was worth its winners tag and is destined to be a hit amongst the highlights reel.

Despite losing the game, the Cavaliers had already booked their place in the next round of



Knights' Brandon Zezovski hits the winner against Green Gully. Photo: MELINDA CIMERA

the competition, courtesy of their 1-0 win over Hume City in the opening Pool A game. After having the bye in the first week of the VPL finals, Green Gully were able to gain some vital game-time into the legs of several key players in preparation for Saturday's Major Semi-Final with Hume City. In many respects, it was somewhat surprising to see Green Gully play many first choice players, given the three-day gap between the Mirabella Cup and finals game.

Nonetheless, the Cavaliers almost got off to the perfect start,

barely two minutes after kick-off. A piercing through-ball down the right wing caught the Knights' defence off guard. Pasquale Vizzari met the ball and was surprisingly through on goal with only the keeper to beat. With time to spare, Pizzari shuffled his way into the box, and miscued his shot across the face of goal.

The miss ultimately had severe consequences, as the Knights opened the scoring moments later. After the Knights received a corner, the ball was subsequently crossed into a horde of players. Gully apprehensively

cleared the ball in the vicinity of where the attack began. With confusion mounting amongst the Gully defence, a floating cross found Zezovski unmarked at the far post, who struck a fantastic volley across the goal into the bottom right corner of the net. Zezovski's technique was simply brilliant, getting his body weight over the ball, allowing him to accurately place his volley low and hard.

Following the goal, neither team

looked exceedingly threatening on their opposition's half.

Possession was often wasted,

with several turnovers evident, predominantly through the midfield.

Following 33 minutes, Green Gully almost had an equaliser, through an apparent brain freeze from the Knights' keeper, Martin John. After failing to deal with a regulation cross, the ball slipped out of John's hand whilst attempting to throw the ball out, falling in the path of Vizzari. With merely the keeper in his path, he attempted to round John and looked to have been brought down in the process. However, the referee ignored the penalty claims and pointed for a goal kick.

Jacomb Colosimo almost doubled his side's advantage just before the half time break. Receiving the ball on the left, Colosimo took on and beat his opponent on the edge of the box. On an acute angle he struck the ball low and hard, however Nikola Roganovic made an impressive save to keep the score line at 1-0.

Minutes later the referee blew for the half time interval, with Melbourne Knights leading Green Gully 1-0.

In the opening minutes of the second period, both teams illustrated their intentions to play attacking football, fetching numbers forward, attempting to apply pressure on their opposition's goal.

Whilst both outfits acquired an attacking mind-set, there was little room given in the final third, as neither side gave adequate space for their opponent's to run in on goal.

Both outfits found it ostensibly difficult to find a way past their opponents defence, with very few chances through on goal in the second half.

The Knights came closest to doubling their lead through Ryan Filipovic. He tried his luck from long range in the 70th minute, with a menacing 25-yard drive. The ball drifted agonisingly wide of the left post, in what would have been a breathtaking goal. Green Gully continually endeavoured to score an equaliser, however found it extremely difficult to penetrate on the Knights' goal. The Knights withstood Gully's late charge, staying composed at the back and not panicking under relentless pressure.

The Knights held on to overcome

Green Gully 1-0 and join their

opponents in the Semi-Finals of the

competition. Given the Cavaliers

had already progressed; it was a

tougher than expected encounter,

as the Knights orchestrated a

gallant display to win their place

into the next round.

In Sunday's Mirabella Cup game a Trent Rixon brace inspired Northcote City to a convincing 4-1 win over Springvale White Eagles.

Dean Piemonte and Glen Trifiro grabbed the other goals.

**Follow Robert on Twitter @
RobertDiFabio**



Rising Star

Daniel Quinn

Jacob Colosimo was born on 26th of August 1991 in Melbourne to Italian parents. Jacob who is currently a forward for Victorian Premier League (VPL) club and former NSL giant Melbourne Knights.

He started off at Thomastown Devils with his brother Anthony. Anthony also a current Melbourne Knights player. Both boys got the opportunity at Partridge Reserve because of their father Ottavio who was the Team Manager at the time at Thomastown Devils.

Jacob moved next to Fawkner Blues and then onto Whittlesea Zebras. After graduating from Whittlesea's youth team he was given his chance in the reserves in 2008. This is where Melbourne Knights spotted him. An opportunity to follow his brother to Knights Stadium was a great one which has paid off for his fledgling career.

During the 2009, 2010 and the first half of this season in the VPL he played in the reserves at Melbourne Knights. After the key departures of Daniel Dragicevic and Jean-Charles Dubois he was promoted to the seniors. In the second half of this past season he has scored 10 goals in 12 games for Melbourne Knights in the VPL. A goal ratio of 1.2. That is 1.2 goals per game. Which is outstanding for a young forward in such a tough league like the Victorian Premier League. Despite not playing in the first half of the season Jacob is pleased and thankful for the opportunity. An opportunity which he has taken with his hands to increase his reputation in Victorian and Australian football.

Jacob's brother Anthony who was born on July 11th 1988 and like Jacob moved

to Whittlesea Zebras before moving to Melbourne Knights.

Anthony who is three years older is a big inspiration to Jacob's career. They are close and this is proven with Jacob playing at three clubs which Anthony played for.

Jacob and his brother Anthony are also the first cousins of Melbourne Heart captain Simon Colosimo. A very experienced A-League campaigner for Perth Glory, Sydney FC and now Melbourne Heart. Simon also played in Europe for Manchester City, Belgian side Antwerp and Sivasspor. Simon too influenced Jacob's career. Reading the play and playing with his head is just two major characteristics of Jacob's play which Simon has taught him.

Since joining Melbourne Knights he has become very fond of the club and believes that they are the best club he has played for. A good crop of players and great environment the keys to this fondness.

Jacob and I sat down and talked football, Melbourne Knights, Melbourne Heart, his cousin Simon Colosimo and Jacob's future.

DQ: Earliest football Memory:

JC: When I was about five I used to train with my brothers team in his under 8's side. My Dad was Team Manager there. That was at Thomastown. That's about it. Can't really remember much.

DQ: Football idols:

JC: Kaka and Zinedine Zidane.

DQ: Goal in football career:

JC: I would like to play in Europe. Even go to Europe and trial somewhere.

DQ: What made you want to play football?

JC: I really didn't have a choice. My whole family played soccer. My Uncle, my dad, my brother, everyone.

DQ: Which club do you wish to play



Jacob Colosimo gets the thumbs up from his brother Anthony after scoring for the Knights.

Colosimo Takes His Chance

for?

JC: AC Milan.

DQ: What are your strengths?

JC: Finishing, my left foot, vision.

DQ: What are your weaknesses?

JC: Probably my speed.

DQ: How well do you think you have done this past season?

JC: I think I've done pretty well. First half of the season I didn't play. Mainly in the ressies. Second half of the season I played the last 12 games and I finished on 10 goals so yeah I reckon I did alright.

DQ: Do you do anything different or special in training to improve as a player?

JC: Not really, I just try as train as much as I can and yeah try train everyday but not anything different or special.

DQ: Do you do anything different or special in training to impress the

coach/manager?

JC: Not really, I just score goals. Score as many as I can.

DQ: Do you feel pressure to perform?

JC: Nah not at all.

DQ: So from no one? not yourself? not your parents or no one?

JC: Nah maybe put a little pressure on myself but not really. Try and get into as comfortable as possible.

DQ: You must be pleased with the amount of game time at Melbourne Knights compared to last season?

JC: Yeah, I would have like to play a bit more in the first half of the season but I'm happy how the second half of season went.

DQ: You have scored 10 goals in only 12 appearances. You must be happy with that goal return ratio?

JC: Yeah, very happy. Probably could have had a few more but that's how

it goes.

DQ: Your chance to lead the forward line has been because of the departures of Daniel Dragicevic and Jean-Charles Dubois. You must be pleased that you were given a chance?

JC: Yeah, that probably was the main reason why I started playing. It worked out well for me I guess.

DQ: Are you currently happy at Melbourne Knights?

JC: Yeah love it here. Best club I've ever been at.

DQ: How? How is it the best club you have been at?

JC: It's a great environment here, good people here. Great bunch of boys who play. They looked after me in the last three years I've been here. So yeah I have really enjoyed it here.

DQ: Is it true that you have signed for Melbourne Heart's youth team?

JC: Nah. I've heard a lot. People have been asking me that but I have not heard anything.

DQ: So did you talk to them?

JC: I did some trials that they had on their website. I went to that, but apart from that I haven't heard anything from anyone. Maybe was just some people who was asking me if I signed with Melbourne Heart.

DQ: What are your plans for next season? To stay with Knights or move on?

JC: Yeah I would love to stay at Knights. Most likely going to stay here. Unless there is a offer from a higher league or something. If it's from any other team in this league then I'm not going to leave here.

DQ: Other than Melbourne Heart is there any clubs you have had trials with?

JC: No.

DQ: What did you learn from your experiences at Melbourne Heart?

JC: It wasn't much. It was pretty much like a training session. There was probably about 40 kids there. There was just some little drills. There wasn't much.

DQ: What about going overseas? Would you consider it since you have an Italian passport?

JC: Yeah of course. Hopefully sooner rather than later. Love to go to Europe just to try.

DQ: So you haven't heard from victory?

JC: Nah haven't heard anything.

DQ: Would you consider playing for Italy if given the opportunity?

JC: Yeah of course if the opportunity came along I would play for Italy, obviously Australia is first priority but if Italy came along first I wouldn't say no.

DQ: What have you learned from your cousin Simon Colosimo?

JC: Well just by watching him play you can see how well he reads the game and I've learnt to play with my head, think ahead of play and make my opponent think and worry about me so it puts them off their game.

DQ: How did you think you played against Melbourne Heart on Saturday 13th of August?

JC: Yeah I guess it was alright. It was hard as we didn't have much of the ball.

DQ: You didn't get an opportunity to play against your cousin Simon did you?

JC: Nah I didn't get to. Shattered. He was having a rest on Saturday. I reckon he was scared haha.

Many thanks for your time and best of luck with the future.



Wetsren Striker celebrate Jordan Spadavecchia's goal in the SA Federation Cup. ADAM BUTLER



Sorrento midfielder David Price receives the 'Stan Lazaridis Medal' as Man of the Match in the WA State League cup final. Photo: PETER SIMCOX

SUPPORTING ALL COLOURS GREAT AND SMALL.



BOO'S WORLD

A look at the lighter side of football.



With Mark Boric

Wild About Harry

So Harry Kewell has finally signed for Melbourne Victory. What was the rush, the season is still months away? This could have been dragged on for even longer.

Point Taken

Is it true that the upcoming Victorian Champions League will see the points tally on the league table not just include 3 points for a win and 1 for a draw, but additional "technical" points as well? They will be issued by the technical director in judging how a team stacks up against the set criteria. Surely the should do away with goals altogether, and have the result determined by a panel of judges? They could have giant gong behind the judging panel, which could be used to bring the game to an early end if it was deemed to be of poor quality. Plucka Duck could hand out the prizes....

Did You Know That 66% of Statistics in Surveys Are Made Up?

Took time out during the week to complete the FFA's survey regarding an FFA Cup. I was rather interested with Section 3 - FFA Cup attendance & match activations. It put forward six options, of which you could select the two you would most like to see come to pass. A-League player signing sessions post match (where an A-League team is involved) is one that should happen regardless of the survey result. Free entry for registered players was another option, which seems a little harsh if imposed on grassroots clubs. Let them have a pay day, I say, or do it at some HAL games as well.

Official recognition of community club volunteers was the next option. What kind of recognition? I think this option was

put in to weed out people who think too highly of themselves and are hoping to be part of some parade. International pre-match entertainment, and venue concessionaires I would like to see further expansion on. Does it mean Lionel Ritchie?

Junior demonstrations during half-time. For the love of God, please spare us this. I could take to a steak with a blow torch for an hour until it was nothing but black ash and it still couldn't be as overdone as kids kicking a ball around at half-time.

Special concessions for supporter groups. HAL teams already get these when they play friendlies against VPL sides, as they seem to light as many flares as they like with impunity. What else do they have in mind?

The brand development section is where a lot of people will

have had their fun. The HAL, Premier/State League and Grassroots/Amateur competitions all required word association (not at all, slightly, moderately, quite strongly and very strongly associated) on a range of terms and themes. I doubt fans of former NSL clubs would have found the A-League very strongly inclusive. In Western Australia expect few "very strongly associated" votes for the A-League when it comes to "skilful" given the rubbish Glory have put on the park in

recent years. The Premier/State leagues may have been more associated with "Magical" had Altona not been relegated last season.

All I can say is I hope they don't take the results of this internet survey too seriously.



It was common knowledge that Lionel had a good football brain on his shoulders...

KATSA'S KORNER

Resident hack with a career spanning over 700 Games (685 in the Provisional League Reserves) and 15 senior cameo appearances.



With George Katsamboukas

Harry Ke-ching

Melbourne Town was a buzz over the weekend, as Melbourne Victory finally got their Man.

Harry "Politix" Kewell put pen to paper after a long contracted, and complex deal was put together, where he will receive additional \$\$\$ on top of his Base Salary, for increases in Bottoms on Seats and Merchandise Sales.

The deal was a 3 year Happy End for him that will take him to age 36, one that Melbourne Victory El Supremo, Anthony Di Pietro describes as "The biggest player signing in the history of Australian sport"

I will let the many Polls being run online to decide this, however, Kewells signing will add additional interest to the A-League, with many non Soccer People perhaps joining Victory as Member, whilst others will float in to watch Kewell play, once he arrives.

The Million Dollar question though, (Sorry make that 2 Million), is how long will this interest last for?

Critical to the whole thing working is Kewells body being able to perform and not break down, he has been struggling on that front of late, and for Melbourne Victory's sake, he needs to remain injury free for as long as possible.

Coach Melbourne Durakovic was as Happy as I am with unlimited drink cards at Melbourne's Finest Over 28's Venues, and he stated

at the Press Conference that he has spoken to Kewell, and Kewell is happy to play in any position that Durakovic tells him to play.

AVPL Finals Fever

Over to the local scene we go where the VPL finals have kicked off in earnest.

Heidelberg bowed out of the Finals Series after their 1-0 loss to South Melbourne, whilst over at Jack's Place, Hume accounted for the Cannons, winning 4-3, in a game that saw the Cannons take a 2-0 lead, that was pegged back to 2-2, with the Canons hitting the front 3-2, to suffer the Mother of Sad ends, conceding 2 goals in the last few minutes.

What makes this Game even more interesting is that prior to this match, Hume City released a number of their experienced players, and promoted a large number of Youth Team players who had limited Senior Experience, these youngsters certainly stepped up to the Plate.

At the time of writing this not so masterpiece article, the South Melbourne Oakleigh Cannons Game had not yet been played.

It is anticipated that this Game would have drawn a large crowd, and the Cannons Powerbrokers, who's team traditionally perform well during the Home And Away Rounds, must certainly be wondering how do they improve their poor Finals Series Results, from memory

it stands at one Happy End from nine Games!

Weekend Warriors

Down the Leagues we go, where we are reaching the Business end of the Season.

State 1 has become even more interesting after Whittlesea touched up the Port Melbourne Sharks, to the tune of 3-0, a match that if the Sharks had won, would have guaranteed them promotion to the VPL, the Sharks did command a rather comfortable buffer from third spot a few weeks ago.

Three into Two does not go, unless you are at a Swingers Party, with Three Teams, Port Melbourne, Southern Stars and Whittlesea all eyeing off the top two spots.

With three Rounds to play, it should certainly be an interesting finish.

The Westgate Zone of State League 1 is still congested, that to will go down to the wire.

Until next Week

This is Katsa

Just as You have known him

All matches to be played on Saturday 27th Aug with 3pm KO unless otherwise stated.

State NW 2

Geelong v Altona City

Stead Park Reserve Fri 26 Aug KO 8:30PM

Whittlesea Ranges FC v Werribee City

Partridge Reserve

Altona East Phoenix v Williamstown

Paisley Park Soccer Complex

Banyule City v Ballarat Red Devils

Yallambie Park Reserve

Brunswick City v FC Clifton Hill

Dunstan Reserve

Westgate v Moreland City

Ardeer Reserve Sat 27 Aug KO 7:00PM

State SE 2

Doncaster Rovers v Casey Comets

Anderson Park Fri 26 Aug KO 8:30PM

Eastern Lions v Dandenong City

Gardiners Creek Reserve

Noble Park Utd v Morwell Pegasus

Parkfield Reserve

South Springvale v Knox City

Warner Reserve

Malvern City v Diamond Valley Utd

Kooyong Reserve No. 3

Box Hill United v Heatherton Utd

Wembley Park Sat 27 Aug KO 7:00PM

State NW 3

Hume Utd v Sydenham Park

Laura Douglas Reserve

Keilor Park v Avondale Heights

Keilor Park Reserve

Maribyrnong Greens v Yarraville Glory

Skinner Reserve

Sunbury Utd v Geelong Rangers

Langama Park

Whittlesea Utd v Cairnlea

Thomas Street Recreational Reserve

Melbourne University v La Trobe University

Princes Park Oval #1

State SE 3

Croydon City Arrows v Doveton

Dorset Recreational Res. Fri 26 Aug KO 8:30PM

Fitzroy City v Nunawading City FC

Fairfield Park

Old Scotch v Peninsula Strikers

Scot College

Mornington v Waverley Wanderers

Dallas Brooks Park

Frankston Pines v Kingston City

Monterey Reserve Sat 27 Aug KO 7:00PM

Berwick City v North Caulfield

Jack Thomas Reserve Sun 29 Aug KO 8:30PM

Provi NW 1

Laverton Park v FC Strathmore

Laverton Park Reserve

North Sunshine Eagles v Westvale

Larissa Reserve

South Yarra v Northern Falcons

Fawkner Park (Northern Pavilion)

Western Eagles v North City Lions

Polish Sports & Recreation

Essendon Utd v Corio

Aberfeldie Park

Surf Coast v Sporting Whittlesea FC

Quay Reserve

Provi SE 1

Warragul Utd v Monash University

Baxter Park (Warragul)

Brandon Park v Beaumaris

Freeway Reserve

Skye Utd v Springvale City

Skye Recreational Reserve

Hampton Park United v Sandringham

KM Ready Reserve

Lyndale Utd v Old Melburnians

Lyndale Secondary College

Mooroolbark v Old Camberwell Grammar

Esther Park Reserve

Provi NW 2

Bell Park v Melbourne City

Bell Park Sports Club

Elwood City v Moreland Utd

Elwood Park

Hoppers Crossing v Epping City

Grange Reserve

Lalor Utd v West Preston

HR Uren Reserve

Plenty Valley Lions v Upfield

Sycamore Reserve

Northern Roosters v Melbourne Tornado

Gibb Reserve

Provi SE 2

Monbulk v Casey Kings

Monbulk Recreational Res Fri 26 Aug KO 8:30PM

Riversdale v Boroondara Eagles

Frog Hollow Reserve

Caulfield United Cobras SC v Endeavour Utd

Victory Park

Keysborough v Ashburton United

Coomoora Reserve

Uni. of Melbourne v Seaford Utd

Princes Park Oval #2

Bayside Argonauts v Old Carey

Shipston Reserve

Provi NW 3

Balmoral FC v Youth Utd

Arthur Beachley Reserve

Brimbank Stallions v Mill Park

Club Italia Sporting Club

Essendon Royals v Darebin Utd

Reggio Calabria Club

Meadow Park Eagles v Watsonia Heights

Gladstone Park Reserve

Brunswick Zebras v Moreland Wolves

Clifton Park

Melton Phoenix FC v Heidelberg Stars

MacPhersons Park Sat 27 Aug KO 7:00PM

Monday 22nd August

Eitham North Reserve Sat 27 Aug KO 7:00PM

Seniors

STATE NORTH WEST 2

Reserves

West: Altona City 1 (M Esposito) Altona East Phoenix 0, Ballarat Red Devils 1 Geelong 2, Banyule City 3 Westgate 2, FC Clifton Hill 1 Moreland City 3, Werribee City 2 Brunswick City 1, Williamstown 0 Whittlesea Ranges FC 4

Altona City 0 Altona East Phoenix 1, Ballarat Red Devils 3 Geelong 1, Banyule City 4 Westgate 0, FC Clifton Hill 0 Moreland City 4, Werribee City 3 Brunswick City 4, Williamstown 0 Whittlesea Ranges FC 4

P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Werribee City	18	12	5	1	33	17 38
Moreland City	18	12	1	5	53	23 37
Whittlesea Ranges FC	17	10	5	2	28	13 35
Brunswick City	19	11	3	5	43	21 33
Ballarat Red Devils	18	10	3	5	34	22 33
Altona East Phoenix	19	7	2	10	26	28 23
FC Clifton Hill	19	7	5	7	25	28 23
Altona City	19	5	3	11	21	30 18
Westgate	19	6	2	11	26	36 17
Banyule City	19	3	6	10	18	37 15
Geelong	19	5	2	12	21	47 14
Williamstown	18	3	3	12	12	38 12

P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Moreland City	18	14	1	3	56	19 43
Brunswick City	19	12	3	4	45	25 39
Werribee City	18	9	5	4	37	25 32
Whittlesea Ranges FC	18	9	4	5	47	31 31
Ballarat Red Devils	18	8	4	6	32	22 29
Williamstown	17	8	4	5	22	21 28
Altona East Phoenix	19	8	2	9	27	33 26
FC Clifton Hill	19	6	4	11	26	35 13
Altona City	19	7	3	9	28	31 24
Geelong	19	6	4	9	29	46 22
Williamstown	19	3	2	14	16	52 11

Seniors

STATE NORTH WEST 3

Reserves

Cairnlea 3 (L Osman M Ali Beyi O Gurkan) Hume Utd 1, Avondale Heights 0 Sunbury Utd 2, Geelong Rangers 1 Melbourne University 2, La Trobe University 2 (C Clark V Skopjaka) Yarraville Glory 1, Sydenham Park 1 Keilor Park 1 (S Mussel), Whittlesea Utd 4 (V Kalayci E Koc G Tam H Azer) Maribyrnong Greens 2

Cairnlea 9 Hume Utd 2, Avondale Heights 0 Sunbury Utd 2, Geelong Rangers 3 Melbourne University 4, La Trobe University 4 (A Depetru A De Fazio T Randa M Venditti) Yarraville Glory 0, Sydenham Park 1 Keilor Park 6 (J Bruzzichessi 3 P Carbone 2 D Ottelli), Whittlesea Utd 6 (G Ozgun 3 R Abdella 3) Maribyrnong Greens 3

P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Keilor Park	19	11	7	1	37	13 40
La Trobe University	19	11	3	5	29	23 36
Yarraville Glory	19	8	6	5	35	27 30
Melbourne University	19	8	5	6	28	19 29
Sydenham Park	19	8	4	7	36	31 28
Sunbury Utd	19	8	4	7	27	26 28
Avondale Heights	19	8	4	7	28	27 28
Whittlesea Utd	19	7	6	6	32	36 27
Hume Utd	19	7	4	8	26	25 25
Cairnlea	19	7	3	9	37	35 24
Maribyrnong Greens	19	3	2	14	35	58 11
Geelong Rangers	19	2	4	13	26	56 10

P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Sunbury Utd	19	14	4	1	63	17 46
Whittlesea Utd	19	14	3	2	80	17 45
Keilor Park	19	13	4	2	91	24 43
La Trobe University	19	12	5			

Middle Park clinch promotion as leagues take shape

By Michal Skrodsky

Well football fans it has been another massive week in the lower leagues. With each passing week we're getting closer to the end of the season and the stakes are getting higher and higher as teams fight to the bitter end. Let's see how this week's lower divisions panned out in what has been a thrilling year thus far.

All the talk in State 2 NW this week was Werribee City and the fact that 3 former Australian representatives in Craig Moore, Joe Spiteri and Danny Tiatto were pulling on the blue and yellow shirt of the mighty Bees. Werribee got up against fellow promotion challenger Brunswick City, but only 2-1 in what was a very close game with fans really getting up into the faces of the players. Werribee remain top and Moreland City remain second, Moreland got over Clifton Hill 3-1. Whittlesea Ranges are third, 3 points off the Bees in first and have a game in hand, this week the Ranges got over Williamstown 3-0 on the road. Banyule City's late season surge has continued, they defeated Westgate 3-2 and have won their last 3 in a row where 4 weeks ago they hadn't even won 1 game, now the Bulls find themselves out of the relegation zone. Altona City got revenge over Altona East in the much anticipated Altona Derby, the scoreline was 1-0. Next week there is another top of the table clash when Whittlesea Ranges host Werribee City.

The champagne remains on the ice in State 2 SE as Dandenong City had a surprise loss 2-0 loss to Box Hill United. Malvern City cut the lead to Dandy City to 5 points with a 3-1 win at Doncaster Rovers. Could this be a late choke by Dandenong City? The win for Box Hill means they are right up there in the chase for 2nd spot which will give them a play off opportunity to get to State 1. Next week Dandenong City travel to Eastern Lions who will still fancy themselves a shot at second spot.

State 3 NW saw the Keilor Park machine stopped and held to a point by Sydenham Park by a 1-1 draw, despite the loss of 2 points Keilor Park have officially been promoted to State 2 NW next season thanks to La Trobe Uni who had a huge win over promotion rivals Yarraville Glory 2-1. Ceri Clark scored a 90th minute winner for La Trobe to break Yarraville Hearts. These results mean that Keilor remain on top



Two heads are better than one ... Springvale City's Emir Habibovic (left) and Jasmin Limic try to beat each other for the header.

Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

but only by 4 points to second placed La Trobe Uni, and 10 points to third place is Yarraville Glory. Congratulations Keilor Park!

State 3 SE has seen Old Scotch's challenge for promotion take a massive blow, the bourgeois boys lost 2-1 on the road to Doveton meaning they remain 5 points off 2nd placed Kingston who play tonight. Kingston's match will be no easy task though, it is against league leaders Mornington with the winner taking top spot! Croydon City Arrows kept their slim chances of staying up alive with an upset 2-1 win over Waverley Wanderers, but unfortunately for the Arrows the two teams above them (Doveton and Fitzroy City) also had wins. Next week Croydon and Doveton face off in a relegation showdown.

Provisional 1 NW saw North Sunshine's lead at the top reduced from 2 points to just goal difference! North Sunshine battle fellow promotion fighter South Yarra with the final score being 1-1. Sporting Whittlesea took advantage and beat Essendon United 1-0 meaning Sporting are second 4 points

clear of 3rd placed South Yarra. Corio have all but dropped out of promotion contention after a 3-3 draw with the mighty Western Eagles. The Eagles are kicking themselves after letting a 3-1 lead slip with 20 minutes to go. Corio must be disappointed with their second half of their season as they were well on top earlier on. The draw for the Eagles means they slip back into the relegation zone after fellow cellar dweller Strathmore defeated Surf Coast 4-1 at home. Next week the match of the round is the relegation battle between Laverton Park and Strathmore.

Provisional 1 SE saw Springvale City all but promoted this week. The Springers remain on top after a 3-0 win over Warragul United and 9 point clear of third placed Old Melburnians who drew 1-1 with second placed Beaumaris. These results mean Springvale City only need 1 point from their remaining three matches to guarantee promotion with Beaumaris need 4 points from their last 4 matches for promotion. Skye United and Lyndale United played out what was meant to be a relegation scrap, but it ended in a

rout with Skye smashing Lyndale 8-1 meaning Lyndale are all but relegated as they are now 9 points from safety. Next week Springvale should at least get a point when they face Skye United therefore securing promotion.

Provisional 2 NW saw Moreland United take full points against Bell Park in a 2-1 home win. The weekend was made even sweeter for Moreland as second placed West Preston lost to relegation battler Melbourne Tornado 3-2 at home. Moreland sit 3 points clear of West Preston, but West Preston can breathe a sigh of relief as chasing Epping City and Hoppers Crossing both drew meaning they both are 2 points off West Preston now. Down the other end of the table it will be a fight till the end between Melbourne Tornado, Northern Roosters and Melbourne City for survival. Next week Hoppers Crossing take on Epping which will probably eliminate one of those teams from the promotion battle, or will it eliminate both?

Provisional 2 SE is starting to finally get a little clearer with 3 weeks to go.



Ali Osmani (left) gets a high five from his captain, Semir Habibovic, after scoring Springvale City's third goal.

Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

Monbulk remain on top by a point with a game in hand despite a 1-0 loss to Riversdale. This win means Riversdale are now in second, 3 points clear of Endeavour United in third. Endeavour had a thunderous 6-2 win over Keysborough this weekend and still have 2 games in hand. Down the bottom of Provi 2 SE is also a three horse race for survival between Boroondara Lions, Uni of Melbourne and Casey Kings. Next week Caulfield United take on Endeavour United, this is Caulfield's do or die match if they want to stay in the hunt for promotion.

Provisional 3 NW had all 4 top teams pick up 3 points this week, meaning Brunswick remains first on 46 points (after a 3-1 win over Melton), Essendon Royals second on 42 points (after a hard fought 3-2 win over Youth United), Heidelberg Stars on 40 points (following a 5-0 win over Meadow Park) and Moreland Wolves on 40 points (following a 3-1 win over Darebin). Down the bottom it is a battle between Balmoral, Melton, Mill Park and Youth United for survival. Next week sees two crunch games, Brunswick Zebras take on Mo-

reland Wolves in a promotion classic while Balmoral take on Youth United in a relegation scrap.

Provisional 3 SE saw Middle Park clinch promotion following a huge 6-0 win over last place East Bentleigh and with this result East Bentleigh are also relegated. Collingwood City have pretty much sealed their promotion too with a 2-1 win over third placed Whitehorse United meaning Collingwood are now 9 points ahead of Whitehorse with 3 games remaining. Elsewhere, the mighty White Star Dandenong were back in the winners circle with a 3-2 win over Brighton. With Whitehorse all but out of the promotion battle all eyes turn to the title race between Collingwood and Middle Park.

Well football fans, no need for me to tell you to get down to watch your team as there are only 3 round remaining and still all to play for, well for many clubs anyway, so make the most of these last 3 rounds!

CRUNCHALOR!



Dustin Moos (Warragul Utd) under pressure from Jasmin Limic (Springvale City). Ali Osmani (left) backs up. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON



Dustin Moos (Warragul Utd) under pressure from Jasmin Limic (Springvale City). Ali Osmani (left) backs up. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

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South Melbourne through to WPL Grand Final

By Niki Cook

South Melbourne Women's booked its place in the WPL Grand Final for the first time in the club's history, with a 3-1 victory over Sandringham at Kingston Heath Soccer Complex on Sunday night. The match, a fiercely contested encounter, was decided in the dying moments of a pulsating match, with two goals in the closing seconds. Sandringham will now face Casey in the Preliminary Final next weekend, following the Comets' comprehensive victory over Heidelberg United in the Elimination Final. With the demise of Heidelberg, the WPL is guaranteed to have a new champion, with none of the three remaining teams having won a title since the introduction of finals.

Sandringham appeared to have the upper hand over South going into the Qualifying Final, having defeated it 4-1 just last weekend. That result gave it both the minor premiership and the right to a home final. However, it was South that took the game to its host right from opening minutes of the game, and it broke the deadlock in the 21st minute in bizarre fashion, when a Tiffany Eliadis corner bounced through everyone and straight into the net. Sandringham had a gilt edged opportunity to pull level not long after, but the striker somehow managed to scuff her shot wide of the open unattended goal from inside the six yard box. Both sides had further half chances, but the majority of the game was played in the middle of the park.

Sandringham came out firing in the second half, and that produced a goal within minutes of the restart. The home side won a free kick midway between the penalty area and the centre circle, and Stephanie Catley curled an unstoppable shot into the top left corner to square the match at one all. The goal spurred Sandringham on, and it enjoyed a period of dominance, but was repeatedly thwarted by South custodian, Sarah McKeon, who produced a string of fine saves. Both

sides were willing combatants in a full-bodied physical encounter, as the teams attempted to find the vital breakthrough. With the spectre of extra time looming ever closer, South lifted, and began to threaten the Sandringham goal once again. It appeared, however, that both sides had left it too late, as the clock ticked past the ninety minute mark. South mounted another foray forward, and Laura Spiranovic squared the ball across the penalty area in the direction of Genia Avram. There was a Sandringham defender in between, but unfortunately for her, the ball squirmed under



The agony and the ecstasy ... Heidelberg keeper Katie Neville lies on the ground badly injured, Casey Comets celebrate their third goal, and the referee calls for the medical staff. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON



Comets keeper, Alex Lynch, who made several fine saves, sees off the danger posed by Melanie Camilleri's attempted header. Photo: JOHN PUNSHON



Heidelberg captain, Rita Mankowska beats Alex Gummer (Cometa). Photo: JOHN PUNSHON

her foot, leaving Avram with the goal at her mercy, and she made no mistake. From the restart, Sandringham pushed frantically forward, but it was now South in the ascendancy, and it made certain of the victory with a long range shot from Eliadis that dipped under the crossbar at the last minute to make it 3-1 and send South into the Grand Final.

Casey Comets kept its campaign alive with a 3-0 victory over Heidelberg United at Olympic Village on Saturday afternoon, and it will now go on to face the loser of Sunday night's match between Sandringham and South Melbourne Women's for the

chance to play in the season decider. After contesting the last five Grand Finals, Heidelberg had a team packed with finals' experience, and had defeated the Comets in both previous matches between the two earlier in the season. All that, however, counted for little as Casey's young battlers took the game to their hosts and took their chances when they came to record a famous victory. It's been a remarkable season for the Comets, a team that was decimated after the off-season departure of long-standing coach Debbie Nicholls. It was severely lacking in players with top flight experience, and many were predict-

ing would struggle throughout the season, yet it now finds itself one game from the Grand Final.

Casey coach Ian Williamson was delighted with his team's defensive performance in particular, but praised his players for the attitude with which they had approached the game. He singled out his goalkeeper, Alexandra Lynch, for particular note, describing her performance on the day as 'outstanding', as she recorded her sixth clean sheet of the season. Casey was more dominant in general in the match, but both sides had their chances especially in the first half. Melanie Camilleri, so often deadly in

front of goal for Heidelberg over recent seasons, had a day to forget, missing several scoring opportunities in the opening period. Casey's top scorer, Nicola Prins was less profligate, opening the scoring for the visitor in the fifteenth minute. It wasn't until the second half that Casey was able to extend its lead on the scoreboard, with Prins again on target late in the game. Natalie Grubic provided the icing on the cake in the final minutes of the match, with a third goal for the Comets.

Sandringham will now need to regroup quickly after its defeat in preparation for the do-or-die Qualifying Final next

WPL RESULTS

Womens Premier League:
VCL Country 4
Emerging Athlete Program 1

WPL Finals
Heidelberg Utd 0
Casey Comets 3

Sandringham 1
South Melbourne 3

WPL LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sandringham	20	14	2	4	43	16	44
South Melb	20	12	4	4	58	23	40
Heidelberg Utd	20	12	2	6	35	29	39
Casey Comets	20	11	4	5	43	24	34
Box Hill United	20	10	4	6	44	32	34
Bundoora Utd	20	8	5	7	32	25	29
Ashburton	20	8	3	9	32	30	27
Altona City	20	7	5	8	25	30	26
Emerging Ath	20	4	2	14	35	60	14
Doncaster R	20	4	1	15	20	53	13
VCL Country	20	4	0	16	18	63	9

WPL Next Round

WPL finals fixtures details were not supplied at the time of going to press

Please check the FFV website for details.

We apologise for any inconvenience to our readers.

WPL RESERVES LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Box Hill United	16	13	3	0	53	10	41
South Melb	16	11	4	1	52	16	37
Sandringham	16	8	2	6	27	16	26
Casey Comets	16	7	3	6	32	24	23
Bundoora Utd	16	6	5	5	21	19	22
Ashburton	16	6	2	8	26	29	19
Heidelberg Utd	16	3	4	9	21	39	12
Altona City	16	2	4	10	11	39	10
Doncaster R	16	1	3	12	10	61	5

weekend against Casey Comets. Despite finishing a good ten points clear of Casey on the ladder, Sandringham would not be entirely comfortable facing the Comets, having lost both times that the sides met during the season. Casey won the first encounter between the two at Kingston Heath Soccer Complex in Round 5 1-0, and backed that up with a 2-1 triumph at Comets Stadium in Round 14. But, as Casey itself has already shown, when it comes to finals, what has happened during the season often has little relevance.

Zebras pop Sharks' bubble; Stars on the charge



Mem Suleyman

Port hit another hurdle

This was the game that had attracted most interest over the preceding week. This game could almost confirm Port's promotion back to the VPL after a 7 year exile, condemn Whittlesea to another season of State 1 football or simply prolong the agony for both teams and their supporter base.

After a lack lustre performance against Langwarrin, player coach Eric Vasiliadis rang the changes for this game. Some were enforced, Haris Verbovac was at his wife's side as she went into labour with their first child and surprisingly leading goalscorer Nick Kalamakis started the match on the bench. Eric played himself in the midfield intending to provide additional support and resolution.

For the first 15 minutes of the game it appeared that this was to be a repeat of the reverse fixture early in the season in that both teams were trying to suss each other out and gain an advantage. Whittlesea quickly took advantage of the inherent weakness in Port's midfield area and were never seriously threatened again in this area again.

Credit where credit is due Whittlesea played Port off the park and negated their goal difference in one foul swoop. Had Port converted the penalty they were awarded near the end of the game it would have presented a false impression of the game. Whittlesea hit the post as well after having rounded keeper Adam Hrehosin, so it could have been worse for Port.

You'd still fancy Port for at least promotion with a three point lead going into the last three games but any margin for error has just gone out of the window.

I think you have to credit the quality of the first two Whittlesea goals. Any junior players watching would have learned a thing or two about addressing and hitting a ball both from long range. The first one knee over the ball which kept it low & fast and the second one was still accelerating as it hit the back of the net as for the third its unlikely to trouble aficionados of the game but as someone once said they all count, going into the last three rounds goal difference will.

Quick hat trick ease Stars to victory

Two second half goals were enough to secure the promotion pushing Southern Stars



Whittlesea Zebras celebrate upsetting league leaders Port Melbourne 3-0 on Friday night..
PHOTO: DANIEL FLIS



Former Danish youth international and Port Melbourne midfielder Marc Olsen tries to hold off his Zebras opponent. PHOTO: DANIEL FLIS

three points over Fawkner Blues.

The hard working Josip Loncaric scored first for Fawkner after a defence error from Southern Stars too perhaps give the Blues some hope of snatching some points. They would have thought they did snatch those points 30 minutes in as Stars defender Kieran Fitzgerald was sent off for his second offence.

Just before halftime Colin Quick was on the receiving end of a sharp through ball which was met on his first touch and buried home. All even at halftime despite Stars being reduced to ten men.

It was Colin Quick again on the 58th minute this time heading home a Joe Di Iorio cross to put Stars in front. Ten minutes later it was Quick again in similar fashion as a Di Iorio found the feet of the hat trick hero who was cool as a cucumber to finish home.

Six minutes to go Fawkner received a penalty as Berkay Sakaci bought down Josip Loncaric. It was Loncaric who stepped up but his shot was wonderfully saved by Robert Acs, unluckily for Loncaric who was a constant menace for the Stars defence all day.

"I got to say I was delighted with the performance, you know we were ten men down for about 70 minutes but the boys just kept going" said Stars Manager Dean Hennessey after the game.

Suburbs edge past Warriors in Triller

Western Suburbs came back to winning ways away from home beating North Geelong Warriors in a thrilling encounter at Elcho Park.

The visiting side were down two goals 30 minutes into the game thanks to Justin Hanns and Michael Anderson who were quick off the mark for

North Geelong.

The visiting side showed resilience as they quickly equalised before half time as Vasilios Sianidis and Yaw Otuo-Acheampong both pencilled their names to the scoresheet.

Four minutes after halftime Western Suburbs dramatically hit the lead as Yaw Otuo-Acheampong was again involved this time whipping in a wonderful cross which was met by the head of James O'Sullivan.

Seven minutes from time the game would again take another twist as North Geelong's Michael Anderson was again going to finish off a entertaining Warriors move to bring scores back to three all.

Three minutes into stoppage time it was local hero Vasilios Sianidis who rose to take home all three points.

Speaking to Goal Weekly after the game Western Suburbs

Manager Huss Skenderovic said "We were shell shocked in the first 30 minutes but the character of the boys to come back was absolutely wonderful. It was a very entertaining game which the fans would have loved and that's what they come out too see."

Tomic inspires Magic in Macedonian derby

Altona made up for their early season loss to Pascoe Vale with two second half goals to George Papadopoulos and Benjamin Vahid securing Altona a hard fought win in the all important Macedonian derby.

Ten minutes into the game Tomislav Tomich saved a Liam Flynn penalty for the second week in a row, Tomich proved to be the Magic inspiration all day.

Papadopoulos was first on the goal sheet as Milos Lujic headed a Altona free kick in the penalty area as the waiting Papadopoulos was there to finish.

Fifteen minutes from time Benjamin Valid put the icing on the cake as

Eddie Cetkin took on a defender out wide and crossed in wonderfully to find Valid who intelligently headed home.

Resilient Langwarrin continue fighting

A goal 2 minutes from the end by Caleb Nicholas handed Langwarrin all 3 points against a 10 men Sunshine George Cross side. A trip to Chaplin reserve is tough these days as a Kevin Muscat lead Sunshine are hungry to success.

The Georgies found it tough as eight minutes in match official Hakan Anaz sent off Georgies' workhorse Ben Cogger. The set back forced the Georgies into a change of plans with striker George Slefendorfas playing a lone hand in attack for the rest of the game. The Georgies had the opportunity to go ahead after 22 minutes when Barry Devlin was brought down in the penalty area. Andrew Bourakis had his well placed penalty saved by Langwarrin keeper Michael Sivulja. All square in the first half despite being a man down the Georgies perhaps dominated the first half.

The visitors took the lead after 60 minutes when Georgies Barry Devlin tried to run the ball out of defence and was caught in possession. The turn over resulted with Chris Driver going past the Georgie's defence to slot past Mario Roza, the 27th goal conceded by Sunshine this year fifth worst in the league. Sunshine George Cross were given a life line in the 66th minute when the referee once again pointed to the spot from which Tony Saric made no mistake to make the score 1-1.

The Georgies kept on looking dangerous with good build up

SL1 RESULTS

Port Melbourne 0
Whittlesea Zebras 3
(E Kaya R Lally S Nicholson)

North Geelong Warriors 3
(J Hanns M Anderson 2)
Western Suburbs 4 (V Sianidis 2 YA
Otuo-Acheampong J O'Sullivan)

Altona Magic 2
Pascoe Vale 0

Southern Stars 3
Fawkner Blues 1

Preston Lions 1
FC Bulleen Lions 3

Sunshine George Cross 1
Langwarrin 2

U21s: Port Melbourne 3 Whittlesea Zebras 1, North Geelong Warriors 1 Western Suburbs 1, Altona Magic 0 Pascoe Vale 1, Southern Stars 2 Fawkner Blues 2, Preston Lions 1 FC Bulleen Lions 1, Sunshine George Cross 4 Langwarrin 2

SL1 LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Port Melbourne	19	11	5	3	28	17	38
Southern Stars	18	11	3	4	33	21	36
Whittlesea Z	19	10	5	4	34	22	35
Altona Magic	19	9	4	6	31	26	28
Pascoe Vale	19	8	2	9	33	24	26
Bulleen Lions	19	7	4	8	23	22	25
Sun George X	19	7	4	8	26	28	25
North Geelong	19	7	2	10	25	33	23
Western Subs	19	7	2	10	23	34	23
Fawkner Blues	19	6	3	10	20	20	21
Langwarrin	18	5	5	8	24	31	20
Preston Lions	19	4	3	12	23	45	15

SL1 Next Round

Port Melb v Sunshine George Cross
SS Anderson Reserve
Fri 26 Aug KO 8:30PM

Altona Magic v Southern Stars
Paisley Park
Sat 27 Aug KO 3:00PM

Fawkner Blues v Nth Geelong Warriors
CB Smith Reserve
Sat 27 Aug KO 3:00PM

Langwarrin v Preston Lions
Lawton Park Reserve
Sat 27 Aug KO 3:00PM

Western Suburbs v Whittlesea Zebras
Ralph Reserve
Sun 28 Aug KO 3:00PM

FC Bulleen Lions v Pascoe Vale
Veneto Social Club Mon 29 Aug KO 8:30PM

SL1 U21 LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bulleen Lions	19	13	2	4	63	18	41
Pascoe Vale	19	12	1	6	43	32	37
Fawkner Blues	19	10	5	4	42	28	35
Southern Stars	18	10	2	6	41	36	32
Western Sub	19	10	1	8	36	43	31
North Geelong	18	9	3	6	33	22	30
Whittlesea Z	19	9	2	8	36	33	29
Sun George X	19	6	2	11	36	51	20
Langwarrin	18	6	2	10	24	47	20
Port Melbourne	19	4	5	10	25	40	17
Altona Magic	19	5	3	11	33	41	15
Preston Lions	18	3	2	13	25	46	11

play by Simon Menichelli and Eddie Soares that ended up with George Slefendorfas forcing Langwarrin's keeper into blocking his shot. The Georgies looked comfortable and content with a point, but were caught with a soft sucker goal in the 88 minute. Prior to the goal the Georgies had several chances to clear their lines, but a cross from the left wing to the unmarked Caleb Nicholas saw him head the ball just under the cross bar to revive his team's chances of survival in SL1.

Bullen relegate Preston
After several attempts to the contact clubs and no information forthcoming Goal! Weekly is unfortunately unable to bring you information on this game.



Berwick City FC

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PHOTO: STUART BARRIE

FULL NAME: James Ashby
BIRTHPLACE: Melbourne, Australia
BIRTH DATE: 21/12/1991
HEIGHT: 180cm
WEIGHT: 70kg
MARRIED: No! Years away
CAR: 2004 Holden Ute
NICKNAME: Ashby
PREVIOUS CLUBS:
Kingston City, Berwick City juniors
REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS: Australian youth team at 15 yrs old with coach Alan Davidson
INDIVIDUAL HONOURS: Captain, coach's awards, MVP twice
TEAM HONOURS: Promotions
CHILDHOOD FOOTBALL HERO: David Beckham and Thierry Henry
FAVOURITE O/S PLAYER: Messi 100%
FAVOURITE HAL PLAYER: Massimo Murdoca
FAVOURITE FORMER SOCCEROO: Viduka
FAVOURITE CURRENT SOCCEROO: Cahill
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH AS A PLAYER: Playing against Werder Bremen youth
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH AS A FAN: Australia vs Uruguay WC qualifier
MOST MEMORABLE GOAL YOU'VE SCORED: 40m run with a chip over the keeper
EARLIEST FOOTBALL MEMORY: Kicking the ball for hours against the brick wall
FUNNIEST MOMENT IN FOOTBALL: Opposition player sent off for my bad tackle
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Never trialled overseas
WORST INJURY: Tore my glute max almost off the bone
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: Alex Tabor
FAVOURITE AWAY GROUND: Kingston
SUPERSTITIONS: Always right boot before left
TYPICAL MATCH DAY MEAL: Spaghetti and Powerade
WHAT ARE YOUR STRENGTHS: Heart, pace and second efforts
WHAT ARE YOUR WEAKNESSES: Headers and dribbling
FAVOURITE TEAM WHEN GROWING UP: Leeds and Arsenal
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTS: AFL, NRL, NBA, UFC
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORTSPERSON: Billy Slater and George St Pierre
FAVOURITE FOODS: Thai or Chinese
FAVOURITE ACTOR/ACTRESS: Denzel Washington, Jim Carey and Will Smith
HOBBIES: Mates, beach and golf
FAVOURITE HOLIDAY RESORT: Hawaii
FAVOURITE NIGHTSPOT: Anywhere
IDEAL DATE: Jen Hawkins
FAVOURITE TV SHOWS: Sons of Anarchy
FAVOURITE MUSIC: Bit of everything, John Butler trio always good
FAVOURITE FILM: Remember the Titans
LAST SOCCER SHIRT YOU BOUGHT: Liverpool
FUNNIEST RUMOUR YOU'VE HEARD ABOUT YOURSELF: Too many
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: Playing in tournaments overseas
BIGGEST DRAG IN SOCCER: Own goals
HOW CAN WE IMPROVE THE GAME: Development programs – bring on the youngsters
ADVICE TO YOUNGSTERS: Follow your dreams. Self-belief is the key
FOOTBALL AMBITION: Go as far as possible
WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET?: BJ Penn and Tiger Woods
YOUR TIP FOR THIS YEAR'S HAL: Brisbane Roar

OAKLEIGH CANNONS



1

SOUTH MELBOURNE



0

Match Details

Oakleigh Cannons lineup: 1. Peter ZOIS, 7. Bonel OBRADOVIC, 6. Ramazan TAVSANCIOGLU, 2. James CUMMINGS, 20. Ari DRAKOS, 12. Luke WALKER, 4. Ante CICAK (16. Frankie LAGANA 62'), 19. Dane MILOVANOVIC (25. Craig Goodwin 85'), 21. Hayden DOYLE (22. Jeremy WALKER 93'), 15. Joshua GROENWALD, 8. James ROBINSON

Unused Subs: 35. Daniel NEE-SHAM, 14. Anthony RAGUSA
Goal: Goodwin 90'
Yellow Cards: Robinson 45', Lagana 67', Tavsanicioglu 81'

South Melbourne lineup: 21. Zaim ZANELLI, 2. Tom MATTHEWS, 3. Rhodri PAYNE, 4. Steven O'DOR, 5. Daniel VASILEVSKI, 8. Carl RECCHIA (25. Kyle JORYEFF 90'), 11. Jesse KRNEVIC, 16. Trent WATERSON, 17. Steven WEIR, 20. Daniel DRAGICEVIC (15. Fernando DE MORAES 69'), 33. Yannis GALANOS

Unused Subs: 18. Marinos GAS-PARIS, 1. Abdelhadi DEROUNE, 12. Brad TRELOAR
Yellow Cards: Vasilevski 37',

Late Goodwin Strike Shatters South

By Daniel Quinn

A 90th minute left foot strike by 85th minute substitute Craig Goodwin has ended South Melbourne's season at Jack Edwards Reserve on Sunday.

Despite being a home game for Oakleigh the majority of the crowd were supporting South Melbourne. The crowd were loud and cheerful before the 6pm kick off.

South Melbourne had the first opportunity on 5 minutes from a Stephen Weir header which was clipped off the top of the bar after Weir got in front of Oakleigh Keeper Peter Zois. On 13 minutes Weir had another half chance when Tavsanicioglu's pass was too short but Weir couldn't punish The Cannons. Two minutes later Luke Walker put his header over after a corner was whipped in.

On 19 minutes Oakleigh had their best chance with South Keeper Zaim Zeneli flicking James Robinson's header over the bar. One minute later South Keeper Zaim Zeneli needed attention after copping a knock. It took four minutes for Zeneli to recover and consequently had his head wrapped in a bandage.

Both teams were trying the long ball game with South aiming their long balls up to Jesse Krnecic and Oakleigh to James Robinson on the right of their attack. However this game plan wasn't really working for either side.

On 32 minutes Zeneli saved a low Hayden Doyle shot after Groenwald's shot was blocked. Five minutes later Ante Cicak had a decent free kick saved after Daniel Vasilevski was booked for a foul. South had some half chances where the likes of Galanos fluffed his chances. The game started to heat up on 39 minutes as Jesse Krnecic and Tavsanicioglu had a push and shove contest but only a warning for each player. On 45 minutes James Robinson was booked after his shot was blocked and for fouling Carl Recchia. Because of the lengthy injury to Zeneli earlier in the half five minutes were added and Yannis Galanos for South put his free kick just wide.

All the play at the start of the second-half was in the South attacking half as their crossing and passing were their biggest let down once again. But Oakleigh had a chance on the counter with James Robinson, but his shot was saved comfortably by Zeneli on 55 minutes. Three minutes later Milovanovic put his header over at another Oakleigh corner. Moments later South Melbourne thought they opened the scoring with Jesse Krnecic but the Referee's Assistant ruled it out for offside. However it was a close call.

Frankie Lagana came on early in the second-half and provided the needed creativity. On 66 minutes James Robinson had a header cleared after another fantastic Hayden Doyle corner. Lagana had his chances where he had shots blocked and sent wide.

Both fans were very frustrated with the lack of finishing in front of goal by their respective sides. This continued on 79 minutes as Milovanovic shot his chance straight at South keeper Zeneli. Four minutes later Jesse Krnecic failed to put some power behind a shot as Zois easily claimed the ball. Tom Matthews good work down the right wasn't paid off.

Five minutes before stoppage time Craig Goodwin came on to replace the tiring Milovanovic. A move by Cannons coach Arthur Papas which would pay off. As the game entered stoppage time Goodwin was found on the edge of the box to shoot the ball with his left foot into the bottom corner. South keeper Zeneli had no chance. 1-0 to the Cannons.

South pushed numbers forward and brought on Kyle Joryeff for Carl Recchia but Oakleigh broke away looking to put the game beyond South Melbourne with Hayden Doyle having another shot saved by Zeneli. The referee blew the final whistle as Oakleigh Cannons were into the next round. They travel to Hume City next week with a spot in the Grand Final against Green Gully up for grabs.



SUPERSUB!! GOODWIN BY NAME AND NATURE.

Craig Goodwin seals it for the Cannons. Photo: ANITA MILAS



Players put their body on the line in chase of AVPL honours

Photo:ANITA MILAS



Oakleigh are ecstatic after making it through to the Preliminary Final

Photo:ANITA MILAS

GREEN GULLY CAVALIERS



3

By Sacha Pisani

Ian Dobson returned to the helm as Green Gully booked their place in the Alanic Victorian Premier League final for the second consecutive year after disposing of Hume City 3-0 in perfect conditions at Green Gully Reserve on Saturday afternoon.

Dobson took charge of the Cavaliers in their Major Semi-Final clash after Lubo Lapsanksy informed the club on Thursday morning that he wishes to concentrate on his business.

Both sides went into the game with a great deal of confidence following impressive wins in the first week of final's action but it was Gully who made an encouraging start and it was not long before they took full advantage of their early possession.

A teasing cross from former Gold Medal winner Graham Hockless eluded both goalkeeper and defender to pick out Joel Nikolic in the 6-yard box who headed home with great strength to give the Cavaliers a 1-0 lead with 10 minutes on the clock.

The midfield trio of Vargas, Fleming and Hockless continued to cause problems for Hume through the middle of the mark with a number of quick touches and movement.

Hume were given little time on the ball as Gully remained composed throughout the half but with nearly 30 minutes played Hume came close to leveling against the run of play. Some great individual work from Atila Ofli presented himself with the chance to unleash a thunderbolt from outside the box but Roganovic magnificently tipped his shot away for a corner. A save the in-attendance Peter Zois would be proud of.

As the half wore on, the contest became a lot more balanced as both teams enjoyed spells of possession. The referee indicated one minute of added time in the first half and with no more action the score remained the same at the break.

The second half began similar to the first with Dobson's men settling into their stride instantly but an early chance went sailing over the bar.

Green Gully Books AVPL Grand Final Spot

From that moment onward, Hume enjoyed long spells of possession as they searched for an equalizer.

Vlahos continued his recent fine form with a superb darting run into the box and his well-weighted cross picked out Cardozo in the penalty area but he failed to make contact with the ball and the chance went begging.

Gully were continually pushed deeper into their defensive half as Hume's attacking pressure became apparent.

Cardozo's audacious effort from the corner-kick came close to catching out Roganovic but the Gully keeper was up to the task, tipping the ball over for a corner.

He was called into action yet again in a matter of minutes as Pisticini found himself one on one with the former Altona Magic keeper and the Gully keeper came out on top.

Gully were hanging on for dear life but Hume, despite all their pressure remained a goal behind and it would come back to haunt them as Medjedovic doubled the defending champions lead with 10 minutes remaining.

As Hume pushed numbers forward, including Acevski, they always looked vulnerable to a counter attack and Matthew Sanders took full advantage, slotting the ball home into an open net with seconds remaining.

The Tasmanian capped off a solid performance by Green Gully and a happy return to the dugout for club legend, Ian Dobson.

After an initial slow start to the season, Green Gully now has the chance to defend their crown at AAMI Park and all eyes will be on Dobson to see if he is capable of replicating that feat.

Hume will have to do it the hard way if they want to salvage their season, facing the winner of Oakleigh v South Melbourne in the Preliminary Final next weekend. History is against Hume after bowing out at the same stage last season but history is there to be rewritten.

Another exciting weekend of finals football awaits!



Joel Nilkolic is making a timely return to the Gully fold after being injured for a large part of the season. Photo: DANIEL FLIS



Richie Cardozo On The Ball For Hume City. Photo: DANIEL FLIS



Matt Sanders celebrates and takes Green Gully one step closer to defending their AVPL crown.

Photo: DANIEL FLIS



Hume's Atila Ofli shows Jeff Fleming plenty of cheek. Photo: DANIEL FLIS



GREEN GULLY

1. **Nikola Roganovic-6**- Had a decent game. He made the save of the game after Atila Ofli's left footed volley was going into the top of the corner. He made some good claims of the ball and some good punches. At times looked frustrated in second-half as Hume pushed forward.

2. **Daniel Jones-6**- Looked shaky at the back as Hume pushed forward and came close on many chances in the second-half.

16. **Mile Medjedovic-8**- Mile had a great game. He was strong at the back, made some good interceptions and clearances as well as scoring the important second goal. That goal was scored after a corner was scrambled in the box and Mile popped it into the net.

3. **Dean Kerr-6**- Pushed forward in the first-half and got into some good positions but failed to deliver his crosses and passes effectively.

4. **Cameron Drake-6**- Looked physically strong but slow against the aging Andy Vlahos. Vlahos ran at him and had a large amount of crossing chances after beating Drake on the Hume City Left Wing.

6. **Stephen Downes-6**- Played a few good passes with both his left and right foot from Central Midfield.

7. **Jeffrey Fleming-8**- Jeffrey had a great game. He was Green Gully's best player. He controlled the game from his deep Midfield role, making good passes and using his great leadership skills.

10. **Graham Hockless-8**- Graham had an immense game as he was the link between the Midfield and the Attack. He was deadly on the set pieces with both his left and right foot. Graham supplied Nikolic with a beautiful cross to open the scoring. He also showed his Rory Delap-esque throw ins with some good distance from the by-line.

17. **Andy Vargas-6**- Didn't have the best of games for Green Gully on the Right Wing. He a couple opportunities to get onto the ball and put in a cross but his accuracy was inaccurate.

12. **Mathew Sanders-6**- Despite scoring the third goal he had a poor game. He wasn't involved and barely got any touches until on 93 minutes as he slotted the ball home with his left foot as the net was left open as Acevski was up the field trying to add number to a last minute set piece.

18. **Joel Nikolic-7**- Had a good game during the first-half but struggled after being moved to the Left Wing. He got onto the end of Graham Hockless' brilliant cross to head home on 10 minutes. Other than that he couldn't get onto the ball often on the Left Wing before being substituted for Jason Hayne.

Substitutes:

8. **Jason Hayne-7**- Had a good game as a substitute. Played on the Right Wing and had a left footed shot blocked as him cut in from the right. Jason also played a nice little pass from the right which Sanders couldn't get onto.

19. **Johnathan Munoz-6**- Johnathan made his first appearance in roughly two months after injuring his leg a couple months ago but unfortunately didn't really get onto the ball.

11. **Pasquale Vizzari-N/A**- Came on late and didn't have an opportunity to make an impact.



Craig Goodwin lets the winner rip.
Photo: ANITA MILAS



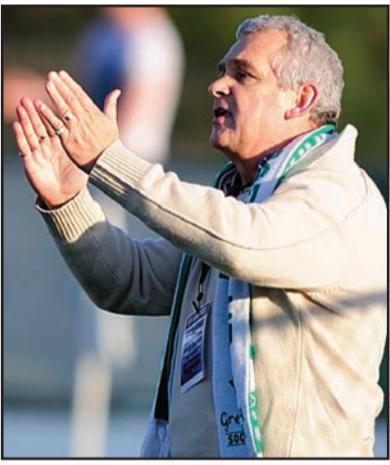
The Cannons bench go wild with delight.
Photo: ANITA MILAS



Jess Krnceanic receives close attention
Photo: ANITA MILAS



Gully now have a shot at a record 9th Victorian Premier league title. Photo: DANIEL FLIS



Ian Dobson: Back in the hot seat. Photo: DANIEL FLIS



Matt Sanders' effort makes its way into an unguarded goal after Hume keeper Lou Acevski pushed forward in numbers.
Photo: DANIEL FLIS



A well informed fan knows a good read when he sees one.
Photo: DANIEL FLIS



OAKLEIGH CANNONS

1. **Peter Zois-6**- The Cannons captain and keeper did well when needed but struggled when rushing out to close down the attacker.

7. **Bonel Obradovic-7**- The Cannons Right Fullback had a good game as he was strong in the air, made some good runs but he failed to connect properly on his clearances.

6. **Ramazan Tavsanoglu-7**- Was strong at the back, covered well but was beaten in the air by Jesse Krnceanic. When ball was a ground level he played well.

2. **James Cummings-6.5**- Was strong in the air and also was pivotal in Oakleigh's long ball game as he constantly pumped it up the field for James Robinson.

20. **Aristidis Drakos-6.5**- The Left Fullback pushed up the field and had a good partnership with Left Winger Ante Cicak making some good runs and crosses.

12. **Luke Walker-6**- Luke was strong in the air. Not only at set pieces but also in Central Midfield for the Cannons.

4. **Ante Cicak-7.5**- Had a great game down the Left Wing and teamed up with Drakos and Doyle on many occasions. Once again his crosses were brilliant.

19. **Dane Milovanovic-6.5**- Dane had a decent game and also had many chances to score. Either while one on one with the keeper or at set pieces.

21. **Hayden Doyle-8**- Once again was one of Oakleigh's better players with some great set pieces, good crosses and some decent finishing. Was lucky not to score.

15. **Joshua Groenewald-6**- Played up front with Doyle and Robinson on either side but other than having some shots blocked he wasn't effective. Was out muscled by O'Dor and Recchia.

8. **James Robinson-7.5**- The former Melbourne Victory striker had a good game with some good chances but good keeping skills by Zeneli kept South in it.

Substitutes:
22. **Jeremy Walker-N/A**- Wasn't on long enough



SOUTH MELB

1. **Zaim Zeneli-8**- Despite having to receive attention for four minutes he played well with some good saves to keep South in the game longer than Oakleigh would have hoped.

2. **Tom Matthews-7**- Had a good game where he made some good runs and passes down the right for South.

3. **Rhodri Payne-6.5**- Had a decent game. He looked quick, made some decent passes and was dangerous with his long throws.

4. **Steven O'Dor-6**- Was strong in the air but his clearances and first touch let him down.

8. **Carl Recchia-6.5**- Covered well for his Fullbacks, was strong in the air. Did a decent job.

5. **Daniel Vasilevski-6.5**- Put some decent balls into the box but wasn't as deadly as he has been for the rest of the season.

16. **Trent Waterson-7.5**- Was one of South's better players with some good passing, was strong in the air and mopped up the loose balls.

20. **Daniel Dragicevic-5.5**- Didn't have the best of games and hence why was substituted. Crosses and passes were inaccurate.

33. **Yannis Galanos-5**- Had a poor game. Crosses, passes were off target. However he had a free kick go close to sneaking in the net.

17. **Steven Weir-6**- Didn't have an influential game like he has in the past. Tried showing off with some dummy's and flicks but to no avail.

11. **Jesse Krnceanic-6**- Like other South forwards he didn't have the best of games. His finishing was off but was strong in the air.

Substitutes:
15. **Fernando De Moraes-6.5**- Made some good passes and had a couple set pieces. Played decently.
25. **Kyle Joryeff-N/A**- Came on late and



Green Gully are full of voice in the dressing room sheds.
Photo: DANIEL FLIS



V-LEAGUE NIKE PREMIERSHIP

Round 16

THE VICTORIAN HOME OF FUTSAL
FUTSAL OZ, 407 VICTORIA STREET, BRUNSWICK. T: 1300 788 799



Round 16 Wrap

Plenty of Drama in NIKE V-League Round 16

By Matthew Montgomery

FC Essendon 8
FC Prahran 9

The opening game for Round 16 of the NIKE V-League saw 7th placed Essendon take on Prahran in 5th.

There were considerable player movements for both sides ahead of the mid-table clash as Essendon lost both Dusan Bosnjak and in-form keeper Anthony Cianflone. Former Albert Park keeper, Marcus Cobblewick was his replacement, while league top scorer Alex Stevanovic also returned to the Essendon line up. Prahran on the other hand had no omissions as they added prolific striker Cameron Holmes, who returned through injury.

The first half scoring opened up with Prahran's Brazilian playmaker, Marcus Barbosa, as he turned in Marcus Cobblewick's initial save from Maxi Avram. Alex Stevanovic was the on hand to level things up with a cheeky little nutmeg on Michael Chami from Cobblewick's perfect long-range throw. But that was as close as Essendon would get to their mid-table rivals as Prahran added the next five goals through Maxi Avram's double, Barbosa (who also got his second) and singles to Clini Mogaoi and Ben Armstrong who continues to do his job off the bench.

Then with only seconds remaining, Essendon received a life line with Stevanovic's second of the half making it 6-2. The red's good fortune continued into the second, as they scored two quick goals, with Stevanovic claiming his hat-trick and Hooman Shekari with his first almost immediately after.

It was definitely game on with the scores now at 6-4, but as always, Maxi Avram was on hand to settle the nerves of his side with a thumping shot in to the roof of Cobblewick's net. Stevanovic's fourth and Robert Shekari's deflected strike off Cameron Holmes' foot sent Chami the wrong way and brought the score back to 7-6. But Holmes would repay his teammates soon after as he executed a well constructed 1-2 with Barbosa in the 'D' to again extend Prahran's lead.

With the scores at 8-6, Alex Stevanovic wasn't finished scoring as he amazingly finished his 5th and 6th goals of the game to level the scores at 8-a-piece.

But just when you thought that there would be no more goals, Avram, Prahran's captain and leader combined with Barbosa to add the final twist of the game and seal the three points with less than 30 seconds on the clock.

It was a miraculous fight back from Essendon, but Prahran - the quality side that they are - should have been able to hang onto their 4 goal half time lead.

CF Brunswick 9
FC Balwyn 2

The next game that followed that amazing 17 goal opener that was Prahran v Essendon, saw 3rd ranked Brunswick go head to head against a Balwyn side in 11th.

Brunswick regained the services of tricky defender Damir Marusic, while Balwyn on the other hand were severely depleted without the likes of Rob Zadwany and key defender Tony Saric. Current Futsal pro, Danny Ngaluafe set the opening half alight with two quick goals within the first five minutes, completely stunning the likes of Balwyn and the spectators alike.

But as they have done all season, never afraid of fierce competition, Balwyn bit back through their captain, Tony Imeri when he side footed past Brendan Chen on the edge of the "D". Balwyn went pound for pound with the top 3 giants, but their hard work came undone late in the half when Ngaluafe scored his third goal for half from the second penalty spot.



Prahran's Maxi Avram celebrates one of his four goals in what was a match winning performance.



North's Jon Barrientos (R) embraces Tiago Priori after scoring the match winner.



Fitzroy's Chris Yang lets out all of his emotion as he puts away a crucial free kick.



Hume's two four goal heroes, Moe Tankir (L) and Haider Noor brace themselves in a defensive wall.

But Ngaluafe's influence on the score line wasn't complete, as he set up 'the punisher' Mike Sharples for his first and his sides 4th making it 4-1 at the break.

The second half began quite brightly for the whites, as Ben Bodo slotted into an open Brunswick net to keep their chances alive. But from the score being 4-2, it only went down from that point on as Sharples added three in a row to take his match total to four and signal his arrival of being one of the in-form strikers in the league.

With Balwyn facing a 7-2 deficit, they were truly deflated. This allowed regular goal-sneak, Ruz Roslan to bag two of his own and complete the 9-2 scoreline. It was a solid performance by Brunswick, who under manager Nikos Ignatiadis, continue to get the job done. They are certainly up there with the likes of North and Pascoe Vale and certainly belong among the leagues elite.

Pascoe Vale FC 10
FC Melbourne 1

The third clash of the night produced a clash between two very contrasting teams. Pascoe Vale who are in 2nd position and chasing the 2011 title and Melbourne who are in 10th and just trying to stay out of the relegation zone.

For the second week running, Pascoe Vale remained unchanged, while Melbourne lost solid defender, Elias Starvridis, but welcomed back striker Lee Dore for his first appearance since round 12.

The opening passages of play saw Melbourne hold their own against last seasons' champions for the first ten minutes. But as soon as burly defender, Adam Husseini opened the scoring, it seemed to have a flood-gate effect as Andre Caro, Vadim Mazurskiy and Ernie Simsek all scored within a minute of each other.

The closest Melbourne got to registering their first was when Mael Guiliou hit the right post, but soon after, Husseini claimed his second. Uncharacteristically, Pascoe Vale gave away a rare 6th foul that allowed Lee Dore to step and convert the penalty and make it 5-1.

Then to round off the first half, possibly the leagues best player, Andre Caro added two more to take his match tally to three and end Melbourne's miserable first half showing.

The second half proved no better for the underdogs who were just simply outplayed by a more superior opponent. Pascoe Vale defender Ahmed Azzam and playmaker Joao Da Silva added their 8th and 9th team goals respectively, but

their best goal was saved for last as Azam sent his deft chip over keeper Harry Kitharidis for Simsek to tap in and claim his second of the game and finalise the 10-1 score line.

Melbourne shouldn't feel to disheartened as they ran into a rampaging Pascoe Vale who have (including this game) only conceded four goals in total. It's not the ideal preparation for Chris Gospel and his boys as they prepare to face Balwyn next week - a game which could see them only one point out of the top 8. Should they win.

North Melbourne FC 3
Fitzroy FC 4

Next to take to the pitch was Pascoe Vale's title rivals North Melbourne taking on Metropolitan who are in 6th position and by their standards have had a rather disappointing season, so a big showing against the league leaders was certainly on the cards.

North's already talented squad remained the same as last week's line-up but add target man Mirza Pedic and Queenlander Renagi Ingram and there is a real team to be feared! Compare North's ten-man team to Metro's skinny squad of 7 players - including two keepers, which means there was only one sub on the bench.

The odds certainly weren't with the sky blues, but that's not how they played as the half ended 0-0. That's not to say that North didn't have the better of the play, which they did, but Metro played the smarter futsal by putting four men behind the ball and not letting the league leaders have the play all their own way.

Adam Cooper came closest to scoring, hitting the post twice, while Jon Barrientos sent manager Milton Sakkos' heart rate off the charts by trying to do too much with a ball that should have been slotted into an open net. North keeper also had to be on his toes and at his very best to keep out Dino Redzepovic on two occasions.

The second half was a bit more lively as Alija Redzepovic scored past Apostolakis from a ridiculous angle to give Metro a dream lead. Conceding that goal seemed to wake the sleeping giant that is North Melbourne, as a beautiful Renagi Ingram chip and a Colby Waterfield thumper gave the dark blues the lead. Alija then goaled again in true Alija fashion as he slotted from close range to make it 2-2 late in the game. Tomo Grgic then had a golden opportunity to score the winning goal as he hit the right post with a thumping shot from a smart run from defence.

With the Pascoe Vale boys looking on with great enjoyment, their hopes of North dropping points took a severe beating as Jon Barrientos made up for his earlier miss and converted a very, very late free-kick which in the end became the match winner. It was a gallant effort by Metro who wasn't at all put off by North's plethora of stars! They may have just exposed some level of complacency within the North squad. It certainly was a get out of jail game for Milton and his boys.

Ashburton FC 3
Hume FC 8

Buoyed by Ashburton's loss, the Hume boys sensed a golden opportunity to claim all three points against the bottom of the table and out of sorts Albert Park side.

If Hume were to win, they would only be behind the 8th placed Ashburton by a solitary point and a solitary point away from guaranteeing safety next season. Albert Park were also in desperate need of the three points as they still remain seven points behind Balwyn in 11th.

For the do-or-die clash, Hume were without striker Elias Tsintzas and more importantly their manager, Amin Kedad. Albert Park, as it has been a regular occurrence this season, there were two new inclusions in Jermaine Deng and Aguek Aguek.

The opening stages of the first half went the way of Hume, as defender Moe Tankir found good positions on two occasions to make it 2-0. Albert Park then seemed to gel and muster a mini fight back as Fethi Goren was seriously tested, pulling off some top drawer saves. Aguek Aguek came the closest as his fierce strike shook the crossbar.

With Hume under the pump, they were given a lifeline as Aguek fouled Tankir in the "D" with Haider Noor slotting the forward line for the greens to great effect. Ashburton could have extended their narrow 2-1 lead as Marko Nastic and Ravel Tavares were both denied by the cross-bar.

Fitzroy sensed that they were lucky to be as close as they were and in the second half, took all of their chances to regain the lead. Shayan Rashidi, the captain of Fitzroy was the first to score from a well taken free-kick - the third week in a row that he has scored at a crucial time in the game to lift his side.

Johnny Nikolakoudis and Chris Yang then made it 4-2 midway through the second half to add a bit of breathing space. Ashburton then had a mini fight back as they forced Fitzroy keeper, Steve Cuce, into two top class saves, but he couldn't deny the brilliance of Mark Burton as he instrumented one of the goals of the week with a beautiful passage of play.

With time ticking away, Nastic could have levelled the game, only to be denied by their crossbar for the second time in the game.

Fitzroy then shut up shop and held on for their narrow 4-3 win. It was good to see the young boys have a bit of fight in them, but one would assume that if Jimmy Blackburn were present, he could've had a major influence over the result.

Albert Park FC 2
Hume FC 8

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It was exactly what Hume needed, a no-fuss game where they needed no hiccups and just to take care of business. Manager Amin would have been proud of his boys efforts as Goren Diego Assaeda and Mehmet Parlak all formed quite a strong defensive wall.

On the other side of the fence, it looks like Albert Park will need a miracle to survive, with games quickly drying up. It doesn't get any easier for Alex Arreguin's boys as they are due to face North next week.

V-League Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Nth Melbourne FC	16	15	1	0	123	54	69	46
2 Pascoe Vale FC	16	13	2	1	102	38	64	41
3 CF Brunswick	16	10	1	5	100	80	20	31
4 Fitzroy FC	16	9	1	6	86	77	9	28
5 FC Prahran	16	8	2	6	101	77	24	26
6 Metropolitan FC	15	7	2	6	86	86	0	23
7 FC Essendon	16	7	1	8	90	120	-30	22
8 Ashburton FC	16	5	2	9	85	104	-19	17
9 Hume FC	16	5	1	10	80	97	-17	16
10 FC Melbourne	15	4	1	10	53	86	-33	13
11 FC Balwyn	16	3	1	12	58	84	-26	10
12 Albert Park FC	16	1	1	14	69	130	-61	4

NIKE V-LEAGUE RESULTS

Round 16 Wed Aug 17th

- 6:30 FC Essendon v FC Prahran 8 - 9
- 7:15 CF Brunswick v FC Balwyn 9 - 2
- 8:00 Pascoe Vale FC v FC Melbourne 10 - 1
- 8:45 Nth Melbourne FC v Metropolitan FC 3 - 2
- 9:30 Ashburton FC v Fitzroy FC 3 - 4
- 10:15 Albert Park FC v Hume FC 2 - 8

NIKE V-LEAGUE ROUND 17

Wed Aug 24th

- 6:30 Albert Park FC v Nth Melbourne FC
- 7:15 FC Melbourne v FC Balwyn
- 8:00 Pascoe Vale FC v FC Prahran
- 8:45 Ashburton FC v Metropolitan FC
- 9:30 FC Essendon v Fitzroy FC
- 10:15 CF Brunswick v Hume FC

NIKE V-LEAGUE Top Goal Scorers

- 1) A. Stevanovic FCE 37
- 2) J. Blackburn AFC 31
- 3) M. Avram FCP 31
- 4) A. Redzepovic Metro FC 29
- 5) M. Nyadzayo CFB 27

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Alanic VPL Final Standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Green Gully Cavaliers	24	13	4	7	51	23	43
Oakleigh Cannons	24	13	4	7	41	29	43
Hume City	24	12	6	6	48	32	42
South Melbourne	24	12	5	7	39	33	41
Heidelberg Utd	24	12	7	5	53	26	40
Northcote City	24	11	6	7	61	37	39
Richmond Eagles	24	11	4	9	34	38	37
Bentleigh Greens	24	10	6	8	34	34	36
Dandenong Thunder	24	12	5	7	43	29	35
Melbourne Knights	24	8	7	9	39	33	31
Springvale White Eagles	24	3	6	15	24	62	15
St Albans Saints	24	3	4	17	27	58	13
VTC Football	24	4	0	20	25	85	12

Alanic VPL Finals Series - Week 3

PRELIMINARY FINAL

Hume City v Oakleigh Cannons

GRAND FINAL

Green Gully v Winner of Hume City/Oakleigh Cannons AAMI PARK September 3rd

VPL finals fixtures details were not supplied at the time of going to press.

Please check the FFV website for details.

We apologise for any inconvenience to our readers

Under 21s Final Table

	P	W	D	L	F	G	AD	Pt
South Melbourne	24	16	4	4	49	25	52	81
Melbourne Knights	24	14	6	4	68	31	48	76
Hume City	24	15	3	6	63	28	48	75
Oakleigh Cannons	23	13	5	5	63	34	44	72
Green Gully Cavaliers	23	11	6	4	45	29	39	68
Northcote City	23	11	3	9	48	36	36	67
Heidelberg Utd	23	10	4	9	43	41	34	65
Richmond	24	9	3	12	43	61	30	64
VTC Football	22	9	1	12	40	54	28	62
Dandenong Thunder	24	7	3	14	36	52	24	59
Bentleigh Greens	24	6	5	13	41	55	23	57
Springvale White Eagles	24	5	2	17	34	86	17	52
St Albans Saints	24	2	5	17	25	66	8	49

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